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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

IN AND FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

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SELECT COMMITTEE ON VOTER FRAUD

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Hearing inquiring into irregularities
and malconduct in recent municipal
elections for the purpose of purifying
the election process in the City and
County.

NO. 370-76

Held at: City Hall
Room 228
San Francisco, California

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REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

OF

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1976 - 9:00 a.m.

Reported by: JANIS ROLLER



1 A P P E A R A N C E S:

2
3 SUPERVISORS: JOHN J. BARBAGELATA, Chairman
4 ALFRED J. NELDER
5 TERRY A. FRANCOIS

6 ALSO PRESENT: RAYMOND M. MOMBOISSE, Esquire
7 Attorney at Law
8 Pacific Legal Foundation

9 DAVID E. TODD
10 Investigator
11 Pacific Legal Foundation



I N D E X

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—



1 I think that there was a great deal of public concern
2 generated during the registration drive and certainly after it
3 had been completed, as evidenced by many of the newspaper
4 clippings which were filed with us.

5 There was concern on the part of the public with
6 regard to the honesty and integrity of that registration, and
7 that is the reason this Committee was originated, because of
8 the public concern about what had happened during the registration
9 drive and the potential for voter fraud that arose out of it.

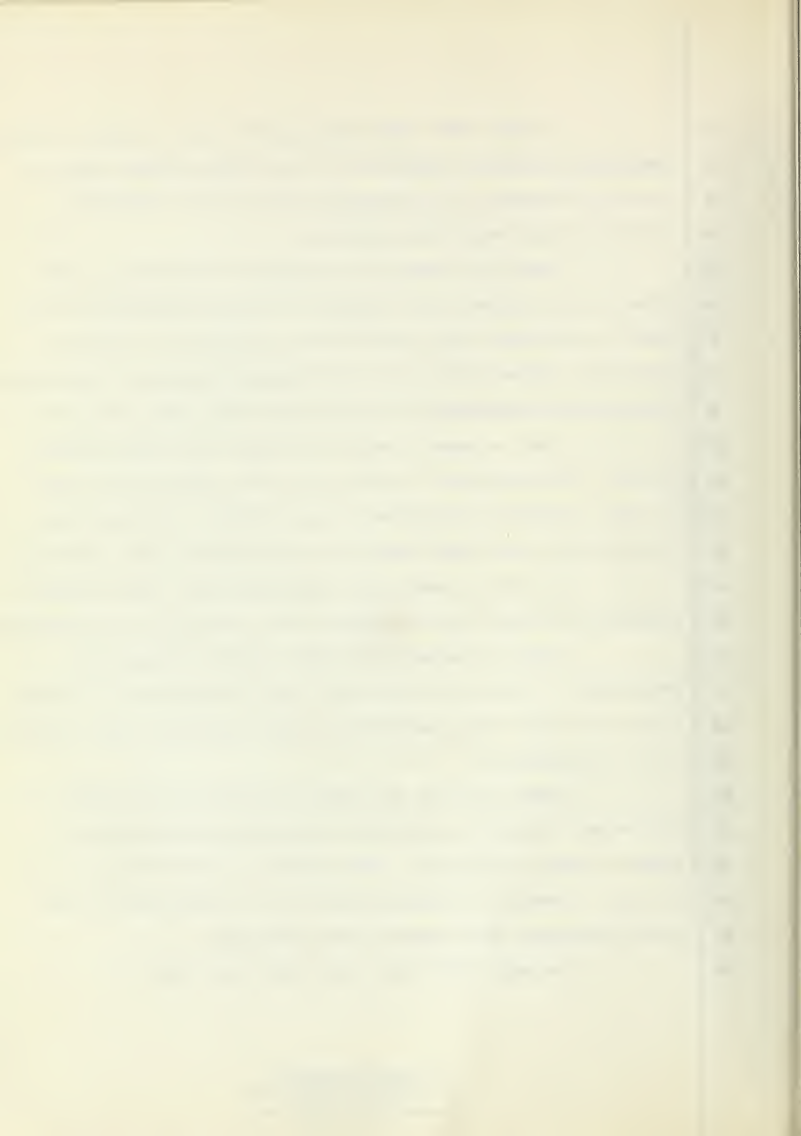
10 When we came to serve as counsel and investigators
11 for this sub-committee, we did so with the specification that
12 we would conduct, to the best of our ability, a professional
13 investigation, and there would be no political control over it.

14 I want to thank this Committee very, very much for
15 seeing that we were able to perform that function in that manner.

16 Now, at the hearing itself certain things were
17 developed. I think the first was that the Registrar's Office,
18 during the 1975 voter registration drive completely lost control
19 of the registration.

20 There had been an agreement arrived at pursuant to
21 the terms of which the Registrar delegated the authority to
22 appoint deputy registrars. The problem is that nothing was in
23 writing. There was no specification as to what authority was
24 being delegated, what controls were involved.

25 Certain individuals were given the power to select



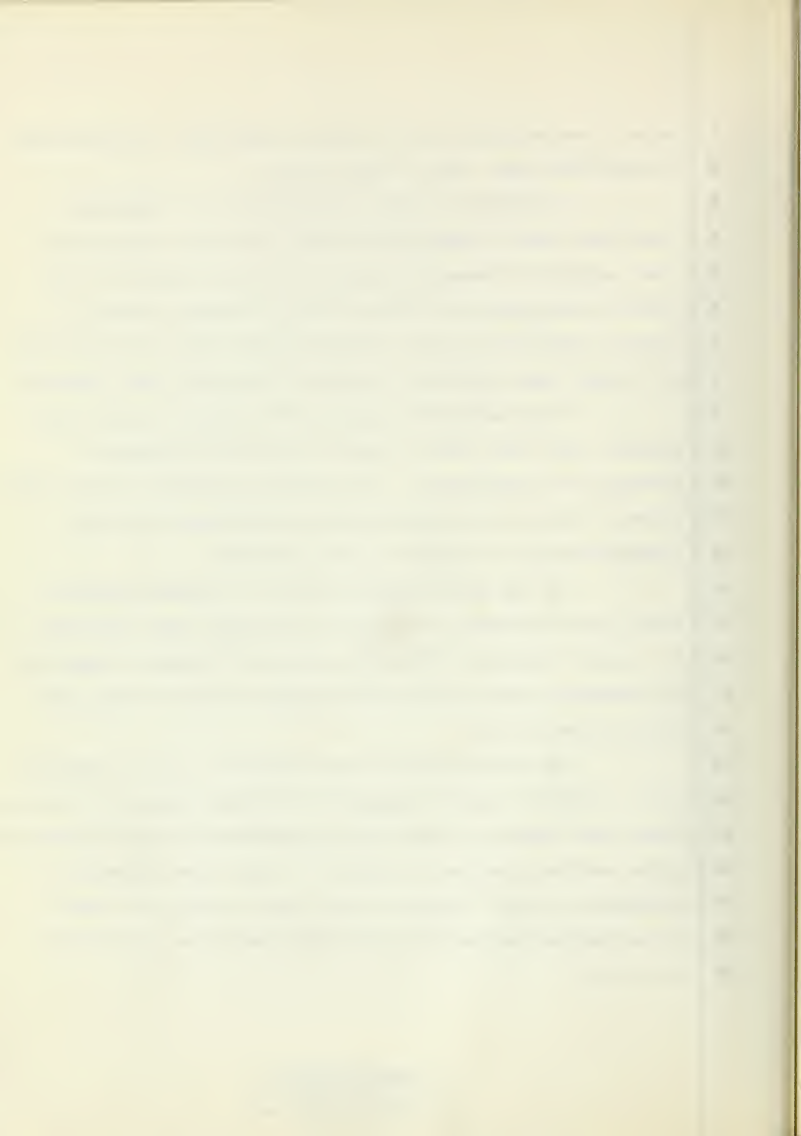
1 select those who would act as deputy registrars, to train them,
2 to supervise them. such as they saw fit.

3 A fantastic number of affidavits of registrars
4 were filed with the Registrar's Office that were incomplete,
5 that required a tremendous amount of time and effort on the
6 part of the Registrar's Office to try to correct, which in
7 certain instances may have disenfranchised those who registered
8 or thought they registered because of the errors that appeared.

9 Even during the course of the drive it became very
10 apparent that there were a number of false and fraudulent
11 affidavits of registration. The District Attorney has been made
12 aware of those, has brought criminal prosecution in those
13 instances where he thought it was justified.

14 As the investigation went on, it became apparent
15 that it was extremely difficult and extremely time consuming
16 to unearth fraudulent affidavits, because it meant a comparison
17 of affidavits, checking out the addresses to see if they were
18 living there or not.

19 We are dealing with over 250,000. It is a fantastic
20 job. I think it became apparent to everybody during the hearing
21 that there had been a great problem generated by the registration
22 drive and the potential for fraud if there were fraudulent
23 affidavits on file, because if they were on file, one could
24 go to the precinct and vote utilizing that false registration
25 to do so.



1 Well, I think there has been some positive results
2 that have been generated by the mere existence of this Committee.

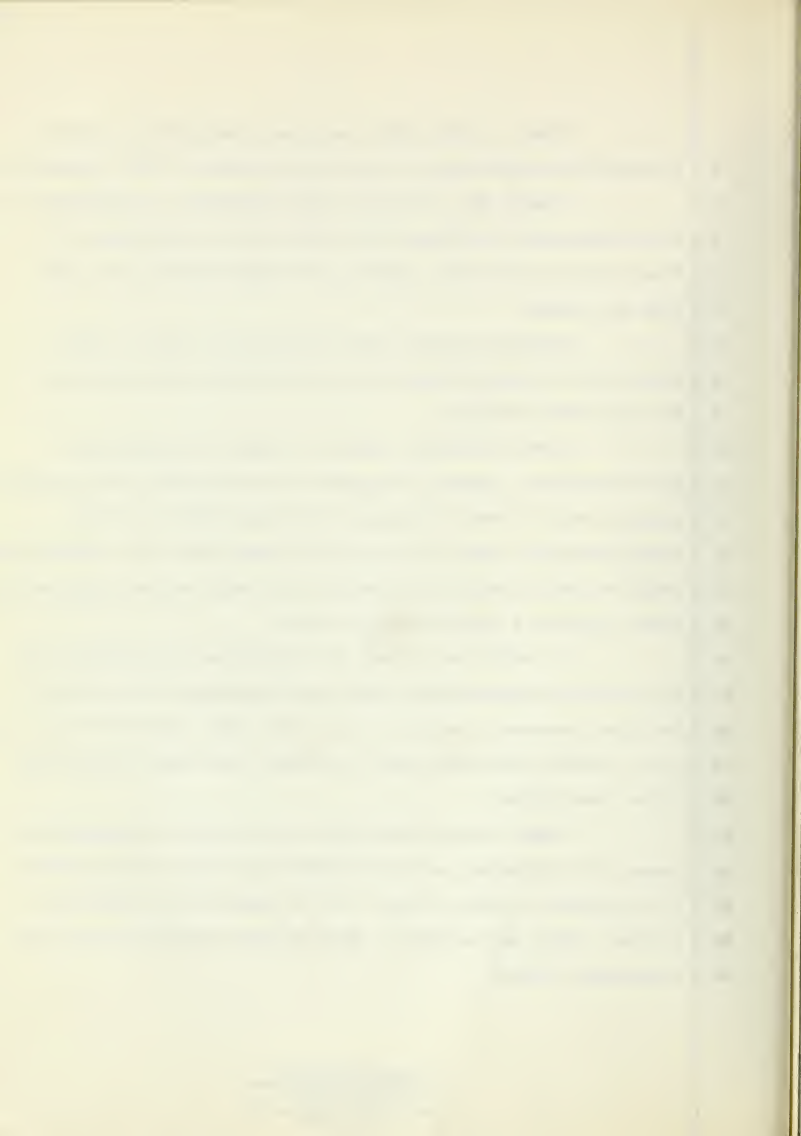
3 Number one, there has been definitely a tightening up
4 in the Registrar's Office, and I think the new Registrar of
5 Voters and his assistant ought to be complimented on the job
6 they are doing.

7 Stringent rules were laid down this time to make
8 sure that the deputy registrars were selected and trained by
9 the Registrar's Office.

10 More and better control of books of registration
11 was introduced. Whereas, thousands of these books were floating
12 around, many of them lost before the whole thing was over,
13 complicating the right to vote and at times the risk of fraudulent
14 registration or yellow slip voting when there was no registration,
15 there has been a tightening up on that.

16 In addition to that, the Registrar has tightened up
17 many of the irregularities that were occurring at the poll at
18 the time, because a review of the voter rolls indicates that in
19 many instances addresses were not given, and names were printed
20 rather than signed.

21 Under the law the officer at the poll is supposed to
22 compare the signature on the affidavit with that on the roster.
23 It is obvious it was not done. He is supposed to compare the
24 address. This was not done. This has been tightened up by the
25 Registrar's Office.



1 In addition to that, when he received the list from
2 the Secretary of State of possible fraudulent voters, he took
3 action by sending to the precincts where they were registered
4 those names and they were challenged at the time they came.

5 In the majority of the instances they were willing
6 to take an oath that they were registered voters. In certain
7 instances they refused and left.

8 In addition to that he introduced the policy of
9 sending out the voter pamphlet with the return guaranteed so
10 that they came back. As a result of that you had a purge of
11 something like 26,000 voters from the rolls. How many of those
12 were false and fraudulent we don't know. This would be a matter
13 for the District Attorney to look into and pursue, but the
14 important thing is Registrar's Office has been taking affirmative,
15 effective action to rectify the errors which were brought to
16 his attention.

17 In regard to the District Attorney's Office, we have
18 throughout the course of this investigation found matters which
19 we felt deserved investigation for criminal prosecution and
20 turned them over to the District Attorney's Office.

21 In those instances where criminal action was justified,
22 the District Attorney has brought such action. In other
23 instances a detailed investigation by him and the type of
24 investigation that would be required in the instance has
25 revealed that, in fact, there was no violation of the law.



1 So I think we say that the Registrar's Office, the
2 District Attorney's Office are aware of the problem and taking
3 affirmative action.

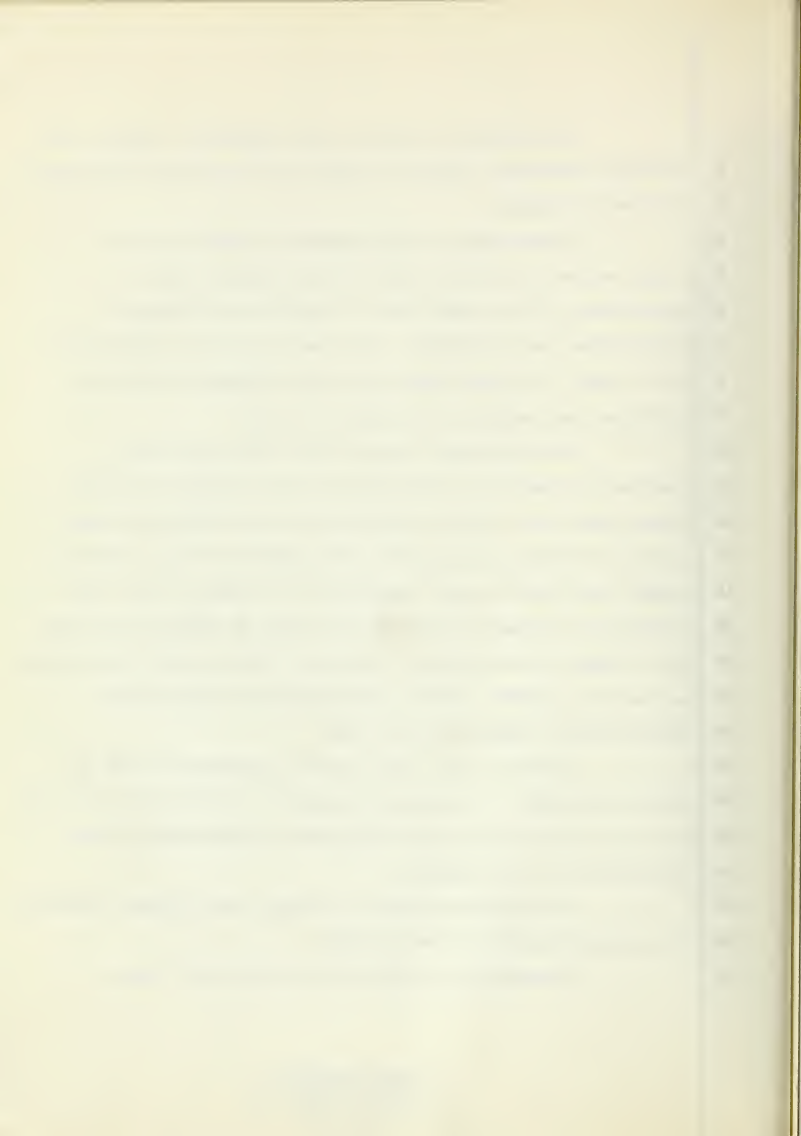
4 With regard to the payment of funds for the
5 registration of voters, under the Code Section that is
6 appropriate, it provided that if there is an ordinance
7 authorizing the expenditure of money for voter registration,
8 it is legal. We have asked the City Attorney if such an
9 ordinance was passed, and he knew of none.

10 The testimony revealed that this has been a
11 continuing practice in San Francisco for a number of years.
12 There would be a serious question as to any criminal intent
13 of any individuals involved in the payment of these funds as
14 there would also be some question as to whether or not the
15 ordinance originally passed by the Board of Supervisors when
16 you thought you were going to get the federal grant and whether
17 authorized payment could be interpreted as that type of
18 authorization required by the Code.

19 That is very, very briefly a summary of what is
20 in the documents. As you go through it, you will find detailed
21 documentation of all of our statements, references to the
22 records and to the exhibits.

23 The exhibits which we thought were uniquely important
24 have been attached to the document.

25 Personally, I would like to say that I have



9
1 appreciated very much the cooperation and assistance of the
2 Committee and all the members of it and the employees and staff
3 of the City and County of San Francisco.

4 With that, I respectfully submit the report to you.
5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Thank you, Mr. Momboisse.

7 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: May I ask a question?

8 Since the hearing began something has arisen in
9 connection with this matter which I would like to clarify
10 somewhat if I could.

11 The Chairman of this Committee, Supervisor Barbagelata
12 submitted a ballot argument in which he stated, and I am
13 paraphrasing it, that some of the people who were behind
14 Proposition T were the same people involved in this voter
15 registration drive which resulted in a considerable amount of
16 fraudulent registrations.

17 Senator Willie Brown, of national fame, recently
18 connected with some gambling casino legislation in New Jersey
19 wrote a letter to the Registrar of Voters where he threatened
20 to sue the City for slander and Supervisor Barbagelata, the
21 Chairman of the Committee, because he had indicated that some
22 of the same people who were involved in the voter registration
23 drive were connected with the efforts on behalf of Proposition T.

24 I notice you mentioned Michael Mason being present
25 in the room as being a paid organizer for the registration drive.



1 In the summary you stated that false affidavits,
2 nonexistent addresses and/or forged signatures were submitted.
3 Addresses in parks, along freeway right-of-ways, on ocean-front
4 property, schools and commercial buildings were common and that
5 there were many affidavits that were out-of-county addresses.

6 You state that an address verification program was
7 undertaken by the Registrar of Voters and resulted in 30,000
8 registrations being rejected as invalid.

9 Is that the same Michael Mason who is connected with
10 Proposition T? Maybe I should ask Mr. Mason. I see Susan.

11 MR. ENGMANN: Are you accusing them of voter fraud?
12 Would you like to make a statement for the record?

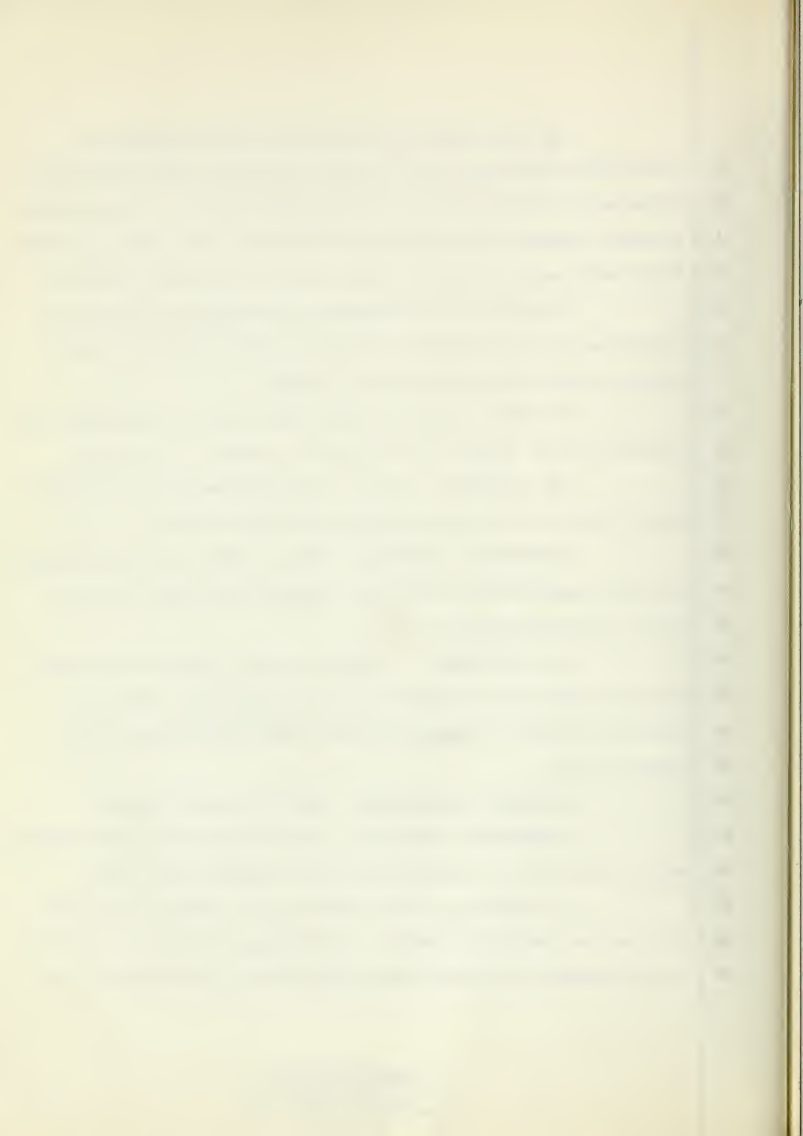
13 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: That is the same Susam Beermen
14 who was connected with the voter registration drive who was
15 active in Proposition T?

16 MR. MOMBOISSE: I think you will find in the report
17 itself a detailed listing of various nonexistent addresses
18 that were found in shopping centers from the affidavits of
19 registration.

20 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: That is in the report.

21 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: The San Francisco Labor Council,
22 which was active in Proposition T is connected with this.

23 I'm getting to the threat of Mr. Brown to sue the
24 City on the basis of slander. I am trying to find out if there
25 is any validity in Supervisor Barbagelata's claim that it is



1 the same crowd that was involved in the voter drive.

2 MS. BEERMAN: I want to know if I am being accused
3 today of illegalities. I want to know, because I will get a
4 lawyer.

5 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Could we stay off of this for
6 a minute. Let's finish our report and get through with the
7 hearing and terminate it.

8 MR. MOMBOISSE: Basically, what we have tried to do
9 is point out the documentary evidence we have discovered and
10 the testimony elicited from the witnesses here.

11 I can go no further in speculating, and I cannot
12 speculate. My report is based on one thing, the evidence that
13 was developed and the records we have.

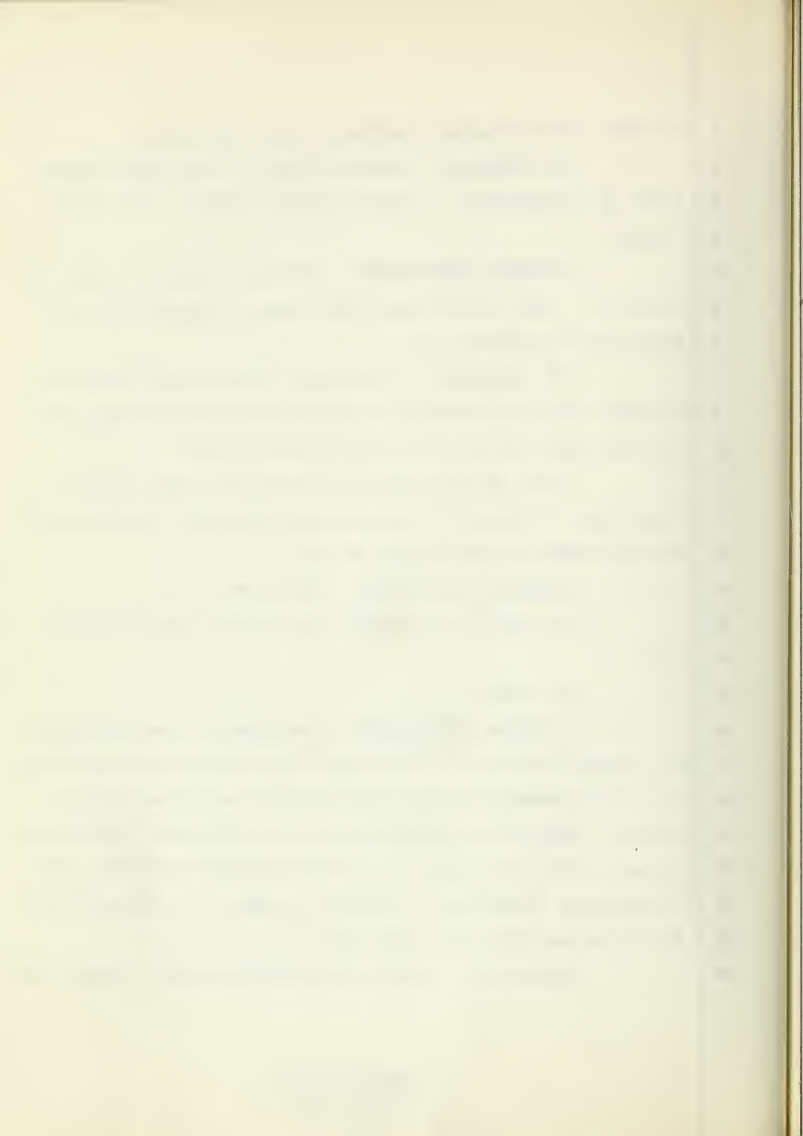
14 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Thank you.

15 Mr. Todd, do you have anything you want to add to
16 this?

17 MR. TODD: No.

18 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: The report is comprehensive,
19 and without wasting a lot of money on the Court Reporter's time,
20 it is all documented here, and there will be copies for your
21 office. They cost ten dollars a copy. So we don't have many
22 copies. There were paid for by Pacific Legal Foundation, and
23 the Board of Supervisors' treasury is empty so we Xeroxed them.
24 So do you need more than one copy?

25 There are a couple more documents here. We have only



1 one copy of them, and if you want to copy them, you can Xerox
2 these records and so forth.

3 MR. MOMBOISSE: Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Thank you very much, gentlemen,
5 and your efforts will be acknowledged by the Board of Supervisors
6 and by God. I think that is about all you are going to get for
7 all your work. Thank you very much.

8 Mr. Patterson, the back part of this report, of
9 which you have a copy, was just a logging of about 800 precincts
10 as to what went on with respect to those precincts as far as
11 the recounting. As to the best of your ability, do you think
12 that these were logged in a reasonable manner?

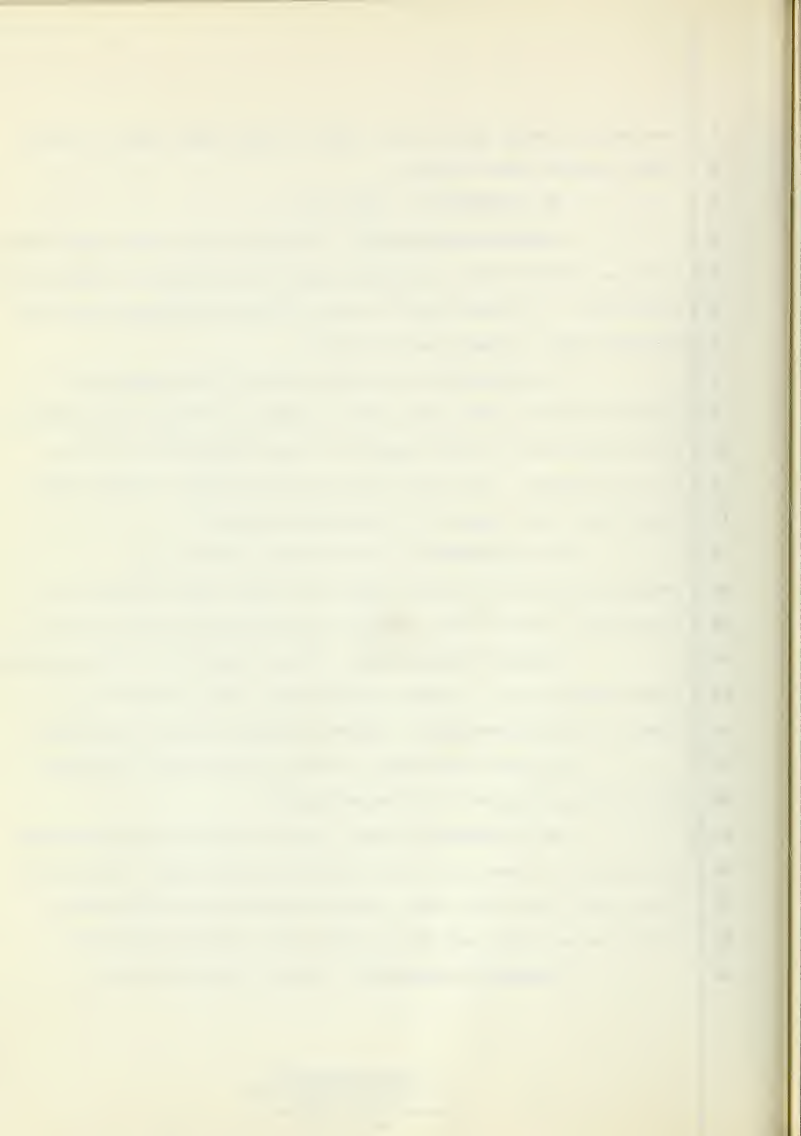
13 MR. PATTERSON: At the recount there were
14 representatives of the two sides, and they both behaved in a
15 reasonable and civilized manner and copied down what they saw.

16 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: These show 700 or 800 precincts
17 where people were to gather information. They couldn't get
18 them in all the precincts. There were not enough volunteers.

19 To your knowledge, is this as reasonably accurate
20 as you can get under the circumstances?

21 MR. PATTERSON: Yes, I can't testify to the accuracy
22 of any one of these, but the volunteers were there. They were
23 there with their note pads copying these down as they were
24 doing the recount, and this is what they copied apparently.

25 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Okay. Do you have any



1 questions of Mr. Patterson?

2 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: When you say "both sides," I
3 would wish you would explain.

4 MR. PATTERSON: That was Moscone for Mayor volunteers
5 and Barbagelata for Mayor volunteers.

6 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: And this recount was --

7 MR. PATTERSON: Conducted in last December, early
8 January 1976.

9 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: But these notations were with
10 respect to specific regulations?

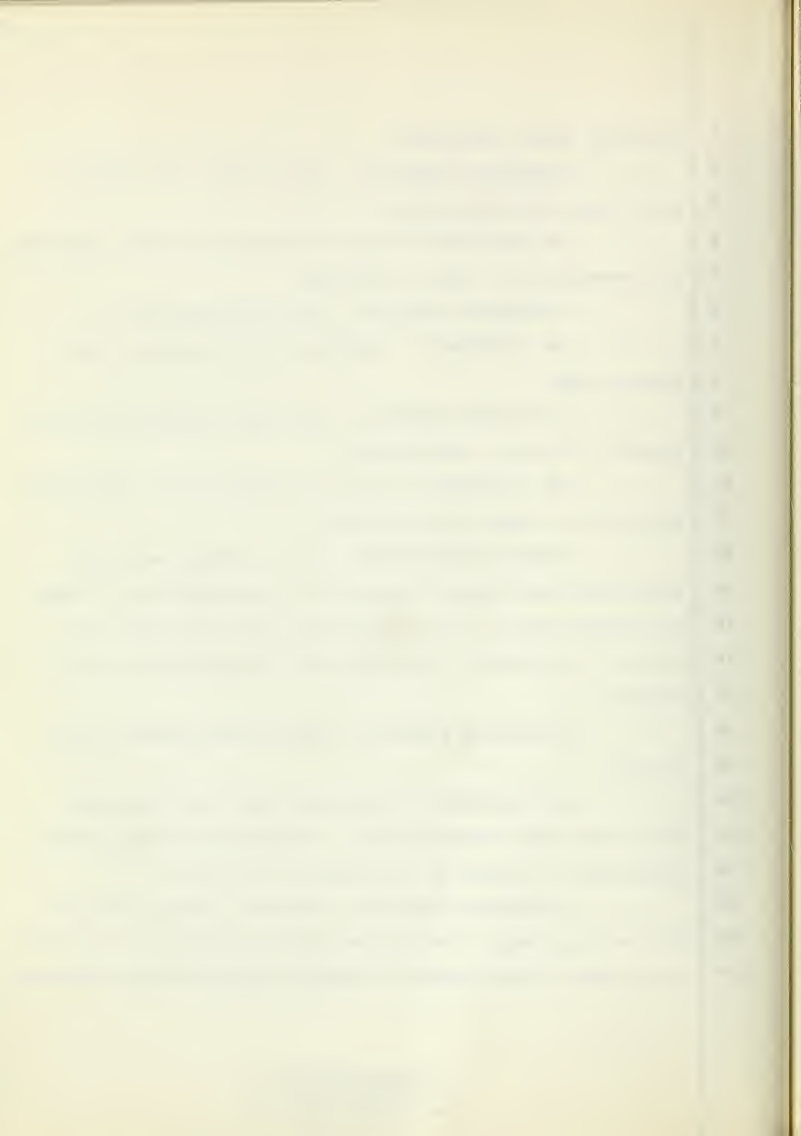
11 MR. PATTERSON: They were copied by the Barbagelata
12 volunteers on their own initiative.

13 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: As the recount was going
14 there were three people standing by in each precinct, if they
15 had enough people, and they would log what went wrong with
16 respect to malconduct, misconduct and irregularities in the
17 conduct.

18 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: None was challenged by any
19 person?

20 MR. PATTERSON: These were notes that were made.
21 There were minor irregularities: A signature in back of the
22 roster was not signed by the workers at the poll.

23 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: The point I want to make is
24 this so that later on no one can say that these were notes made
25 by one side of the question. Nobody challenged these references



14
1 to you at any point or the validity of these?

2 MR. PATTERSON: For the most part they were notes
3 that were made by the one individual, and they had a note pad,
4 and they were writing down things, and many instances I looked
5 over their shoulders.

6 In a few of them roster certificates were not complete,
7 one ballot more than accounted for.

8 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: There were names of people
9 that would work the precinct and watch what was going on, and
10 these were the record keepers.

11 MR. PATTERSON: There were two or three people on
12 each side watching the recount.

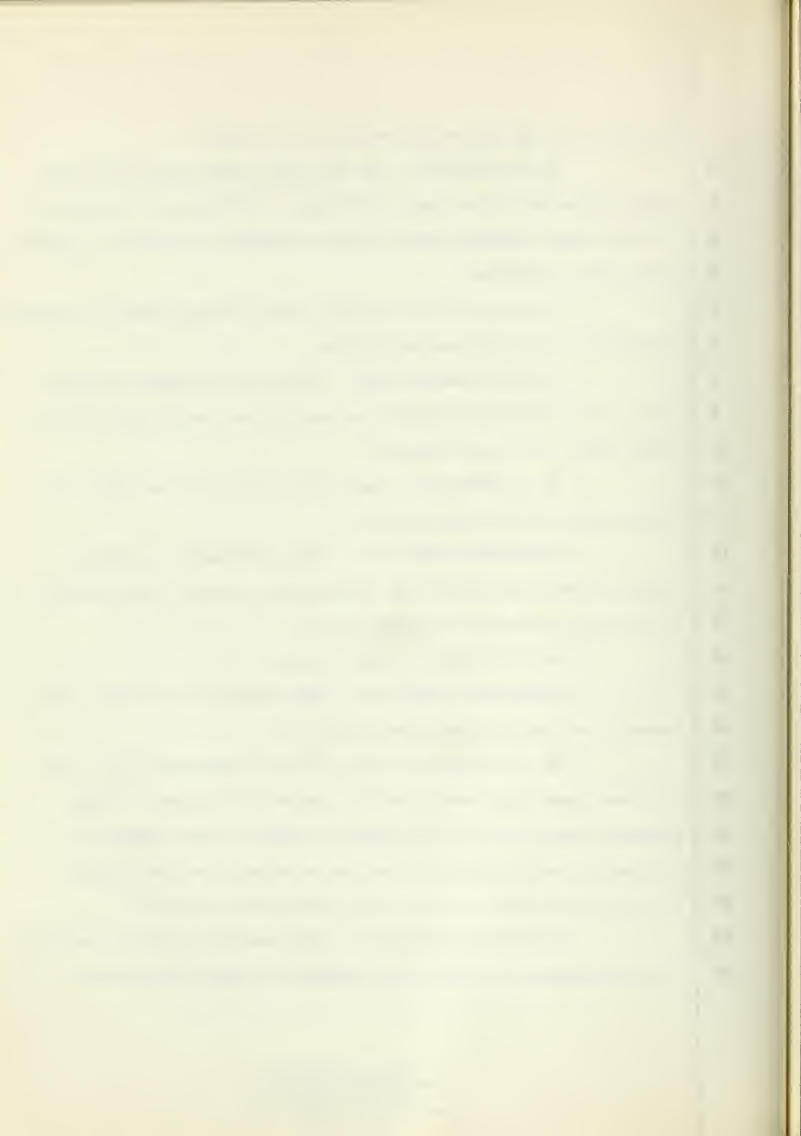
13 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: This was one in a context
14 where the Moscone people and Barbagelata people were present
15 while the process was taking place?

16 MR. PATTERSON: That's true.

17 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: The notations were made with
18 respect to specific registrations?

19 MR. PATTERSON: They were not registrations. For
20 the most part they were clerical errors on the part of the
21 precinct Board where they forgot to sign a certificate, or
22 one ballot was missing, or one where several voters signed
23 on the wrong page, a line in the roster was skipped.

24 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: As a result of this experience,
25 is the Registrar's Office now prepared to make the best of



1 experience to see what they can do?

2 MR. PATTERSON: Yes, we got a new teacher for our
3 election officer classes and got a lot of better results with
4 the June primary.

5 The new teacher presented some of the errors that
6 were made in the past, and the election workers didn't make as
7 many clerical errors in the June primary as they did in
8 November and December.

9 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Now we have a new system which
10 sort of makes a lot of this academic. We have the postal card
11 registration.

12 MR. PATTERSON: Yes.

13 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Do you think that we will be
14 able to handle that in such a manner that we get bona fide
15 residents of San Francisco voting in our elections so we don't
16 have this kind of irregularity?

17 MR. PATTERSON: I think if someone wants to register
18 fraudulently or put in a fictitious registration, they are
19 going to do it anyway.

20 Now, one illustration of this is there are two types
21 of registration. There is the deputy type where a person sits
22 in front of a shopping center and copies down information as
23 the voter gives it to them and turns the affidavit around,
24 and the voter signs it.

25 Then there is the new type, the post card



1 registration, where the voter picks the post card up at the
2 library, or we will mail them one on request, and they fill
3 them out themselves and mail it in.

4 This is one of the new programs.

5 With the Moscone-Keyson Voter Registration Act of
6 1974, we send every new voter a follow-up post card for two
7 purposes:

8 To give them sort of an identification card; and

9 Second, to check and see if they live there.

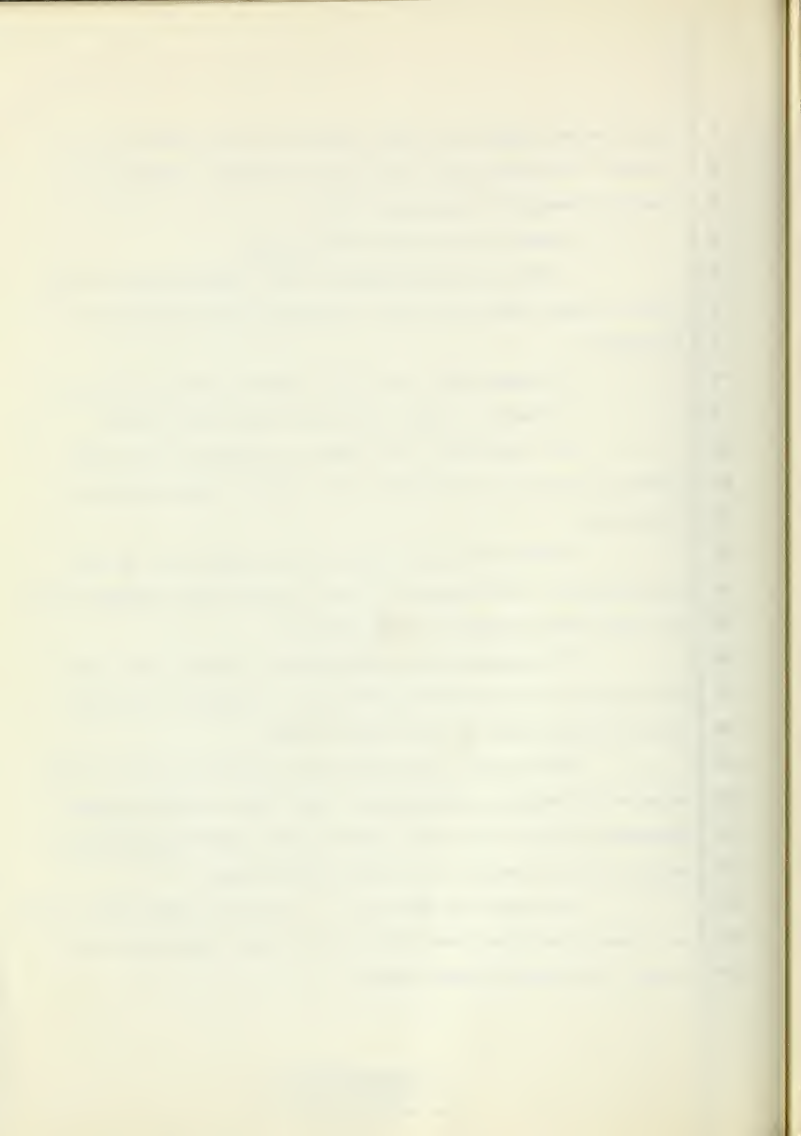
10 If they don't live there, according to the post
11 office, the card is returned to us, and the registration is
12 cancelled.

13 Most of the ones that are returned to us by the
14 post office are for reasons of not living at the address given
15 are ones that are taken by the deputies.

16 The deputies are, apparently, filling out, still
17 filling out, fictitious registrations to collect the money
18 that they are paid for the registrations.

19 We can tell the difference between the two of them,
20 because the deputy registrations begin with a serial number
21 beginning with a "D" or "A," and the post card registrations
22 begin with the letter "J" on the serial number.

23 So when they come in -- I have done some spot checks
24 -- Always there are more "D" and "A" cards than there are "J"
25 cards, which are the post cards.



1 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Are you turning them over to
2 the District Attorney's Office?

3 MR. PATTERSON: No. We are cancelling them.

4 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Isn't there some violation of
5 law for somebody to do that?

6 MR. PATTERSON: Not necessarily. It is possible
7 that somebody could have registered and moved away between the
8 time they registered and the time we sent out the post card.

9 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: It is also possible that somebody
10 may be collecting money fraudulently by illegal registrations.

11 MR. PATTERSON: That is a possibility. We will turn
12 them over to the District Attorney's Office.

13 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: I would hope so.

14 You know the same crowd is engaged in a new
15 registration drive. The same people who registered them last
16 time are registering them for Proposition T, the same people
17 Supervisor Barbagelata said who were responsible for this
18 fraudulent registration drive a year ago are back in the business
19 now.

20 If you are getting volunteer registrars who are
21 turning in names that you find out the people don't live there,
22 at least you ought to turn them over to the District Attorney.
23 They have got investigators. They can begin spot checks and
24 nail these people and put them in jail, and maybe we can
25 discourage it.



1 If you cancel the registrations, what do we
2 accomplish by these hearings and investigations, and everything
3 else? I hope the Committee agrees with me they should be turned
4 over to the District Attorney's Office.

5 MR. PATTERSON: They will be turned over to the
6 District Attorney's Office.

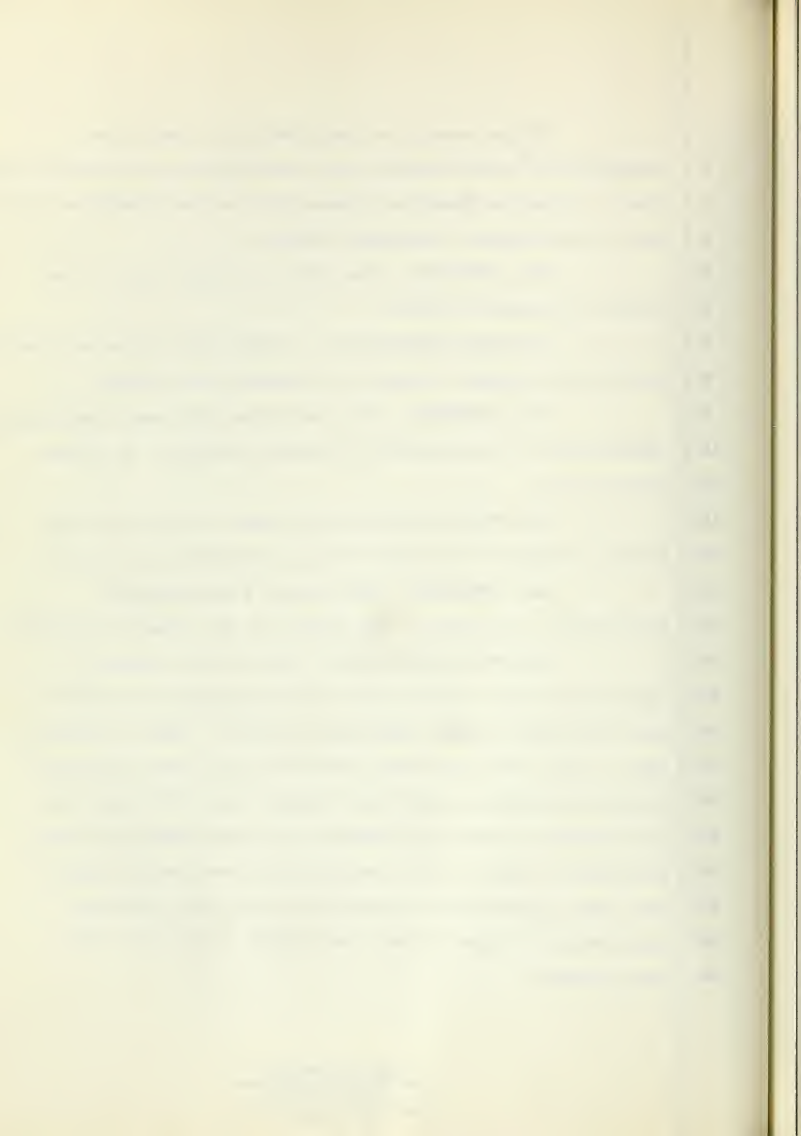
7 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: I think from now on we should
8 be more than careful, because we have been very loose.

9 MR. PATTERSON: We have turned over many questionable
10 registrations to the District Attorney's Office. Mr. Stoen
11 can tell you.

12 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Do you have a liaison at the
13 District Attorney's Office? Do you communicate with them?

14 MR. PATTERSON: When we get a questionable
15 registration, we Xerox it and send it to Mr. Stoen's attention.

16 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Just for the record,
17 Supervisor, what I said in the ballot argument is I used the
18 word "partisan illegal registration drive." That is exactly
19 what I said, and this report confirms that it was a partisan
20 registration drive, and it was illegal due to the fact that
21 there wasn't an enabling ordinance allowing funds to be used
22 privately to pay for voter registration, and the law until
23 this year required that communities had to have enabling
24 legislation to allow private individuals to pay for voter
25 registration.



1 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Let me say for the record,
2 when Willie Brown returns from New Jersey to sue you, I will
3 certainly be willing to serve as one of your attorneys without
4 fee in defending you.

5 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Thank you.

6 Mr. Patterson, there are a lot of things in the
7 record, and I don't want to waste too much time. It is all here
8 for the public record, for your office and for anybody to view.

9 There were people who called the Committee to testify
10 before we finalized these hearings, and if you want to speak,
11 sir, do you want to come up here.

12 MR. SANDHU: My name is Mon Singh Sandhu.

13 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Let's start off with, you
14 are with Delancey Street.

15 MR. SANDHU: Not now.

16 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: You are not now?

17 MR. SANDHU: No.

18 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Were you before at Delancey
19 Street?

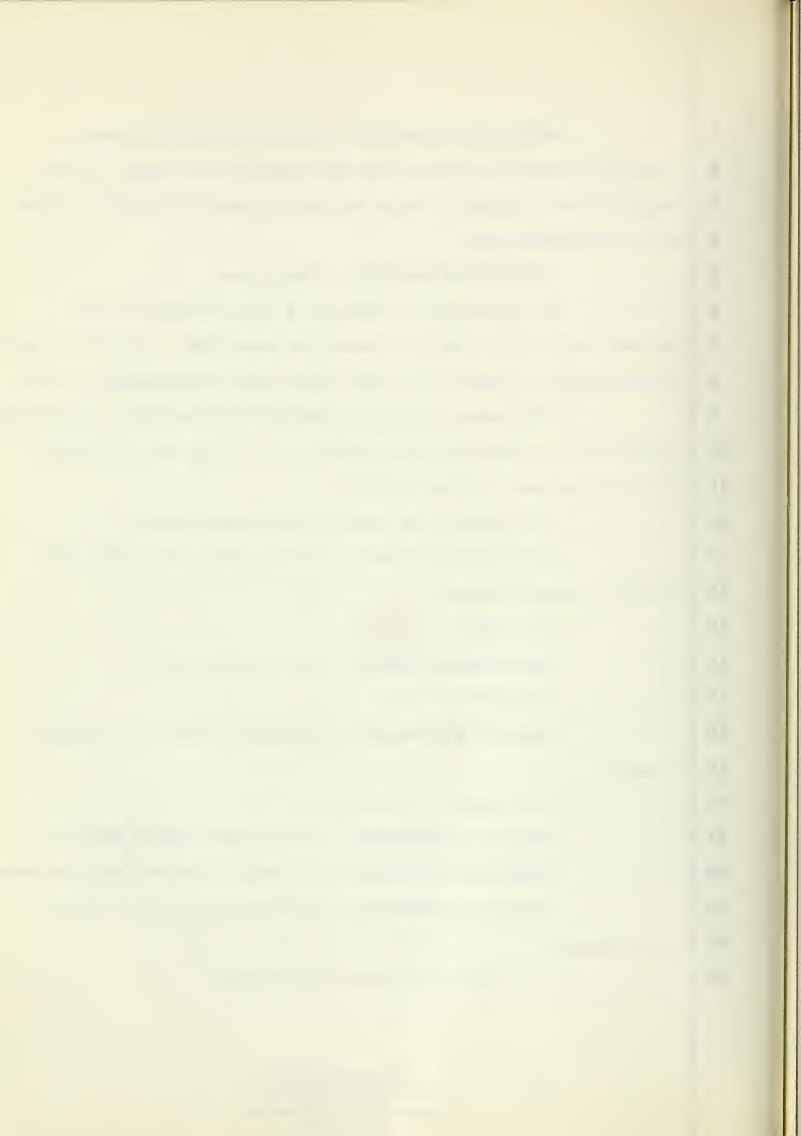
20 MR. SANDHU: Five years.

21 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: This report shows that --

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We would like to hear the name.

23 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Excuse me, off the record
24 for a minute.

25 (Off-the-record discussion.)



1 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: I would like to point out
2 that here in the report, before you start to testify, it says
3 that there were 591 deputy registrars in the Coalition, of
4 which 145 of the registrars of the 591 are definitely confirmed
5 to have been registrars with a residence at Delancey Street.
6 We don't know if there are any more of the 591 registrars
7 of the Coalition who were registrars at the Delancey Street
8 address. That is documented in this file here.

9 Supervisor, do you want to ask some questions?

10 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Yes. How long have you been
11 connected with Delancy Street?

12 MR. SANDHU: Since August 23, 1971. I left in
13 September 20 this year.

14 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: What position did you hold?

15 MR. SANDHU: Vice-President for three and a half
16 years and director for four.

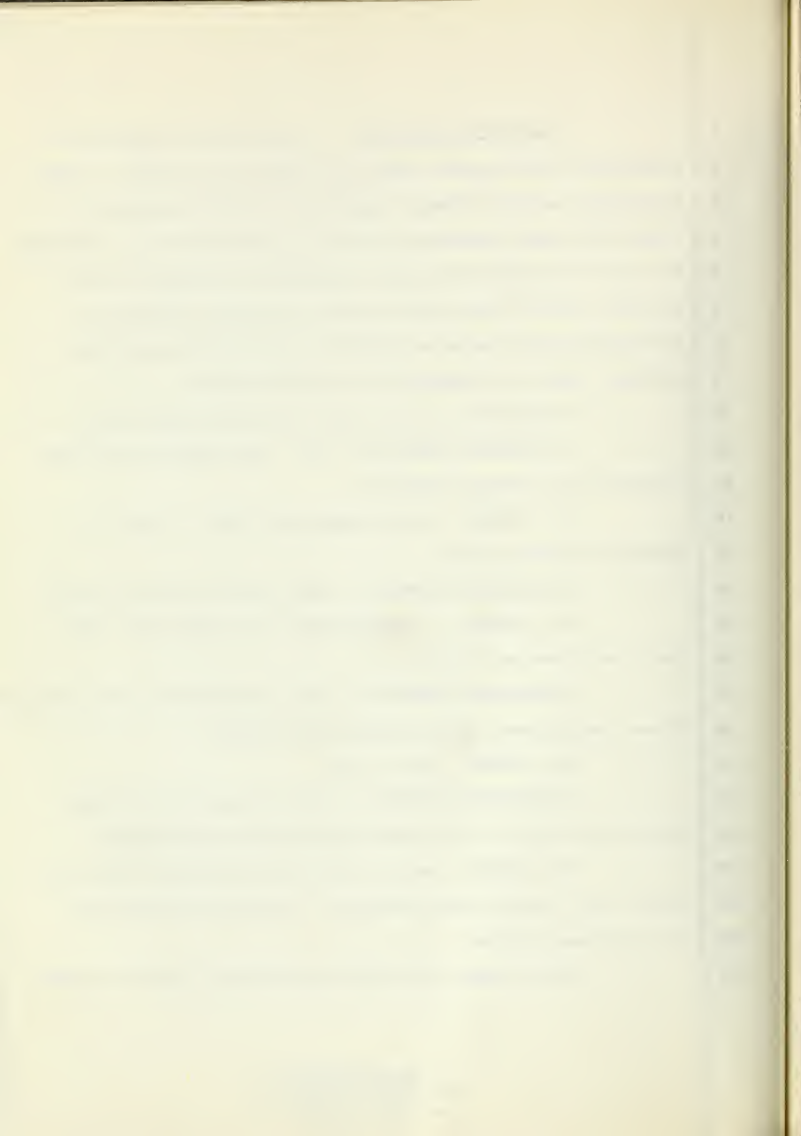
17 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Were you connected with Delancey
18 Street during last fall's registration drive?

19 MR. SANDHU: Yes, I was.

20 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: What can you tell us about
21 your observations of the voter registration proceedings?

22 MR. SANDHU: Well, I don't know what the laws are.
23 That's why I came to this hearing. I just know there are a
24 lot of irregularities.

25 Their people are told to go out and register people.



1 It is not a voluntary thing. There is thirty-five
2 cents per name that the Foundation gets.

3 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Now, these people who were
4 instructed to register voters, were they San Francisco voters?

5 MR. SANDHU: Not at all times. Some were Sausalito,
6 Marin County. There were quite a few from Marin. We have a
7 facility in Sausalito.

8 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: And you state that there were
9 Sausalito, Marin County residents who were told to go out?

10 MR. SANDHU: Yes, but they were told not to vote
11 the last election, because there was too much publicity.

12 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Did they, in fact, go out and
13 register people in San Francisco?

14 MR. SANDHU: Yes, they did.

15 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: How many people would you
16 estimate that you know of who did this?

17 MR. SANDHU: The facility holds from 80 to 90 people
18 at any time. It is a complex of apartments, possibly 100.
19 Possibly all of them got out there. I know of 45 or 42.

20 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: You submitted a statement
21 here. May I go through the booklet and let's see, the Board
22 of Directors of the Foundation.

23 Do you have a copy of your statement? Why don't
24 we start from the beginning here.

25 There is a Board of Directors, and who are the Board



1 of Directors?

2 MR. SANDHU: Well, there are five or six directors
3 that are within the facility that are residents and five or
4 six who are not residents, who happen to be lawyers or business
5 consultants.

6 John Maher just appoints one. If there is a guy
7 who can do something for Delancey Street, he is appointed to the
8 Board of Directors.

9 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Does that have tax-exempt
10 status?

11 MR. SANDHU: Yes.

12 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Which prohibits them from
13 engaging in political activities?

14 MR. SANDHU: I don't know what the law is, but I
15 know they have tax-exempt status.

16 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Do you know where Delancey
17 Street receives funding?

18 MR. SANDHU: Basically they have businesses that they
19 run themselves, and they do get some private funding.

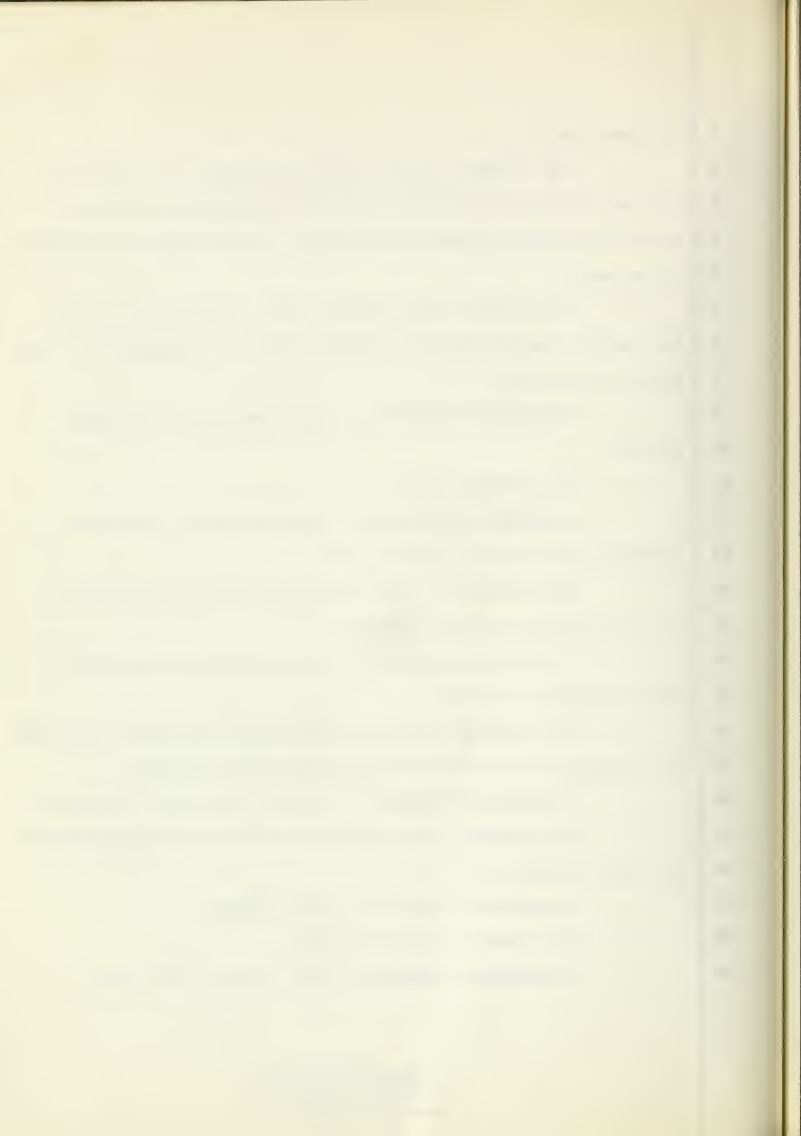
20 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: The San Francisco Foundation?

21 MR. SANDHU: The Rockefeller Foundation and possibly
22 the Ford Foundation.

23 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Levi Strauss?

24 MR. SANDHU: Levi Strauss.

25 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: And I take it all these



23
1 Foundations claim tax exemption for this contribution to Delancey
2 Street?

3 MR. SANDHU: I wouldn't know. I presume they would.

4 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Prior to last November's
5 election was this one of the principal activities of Delancey
6 Street, registering voters?

7 MR. SANDHU: About 1973 this became our principal
8 activity.

9 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Would you say that a
10 substantial part of the time during election campaigns was
11 devoted to voter registration?

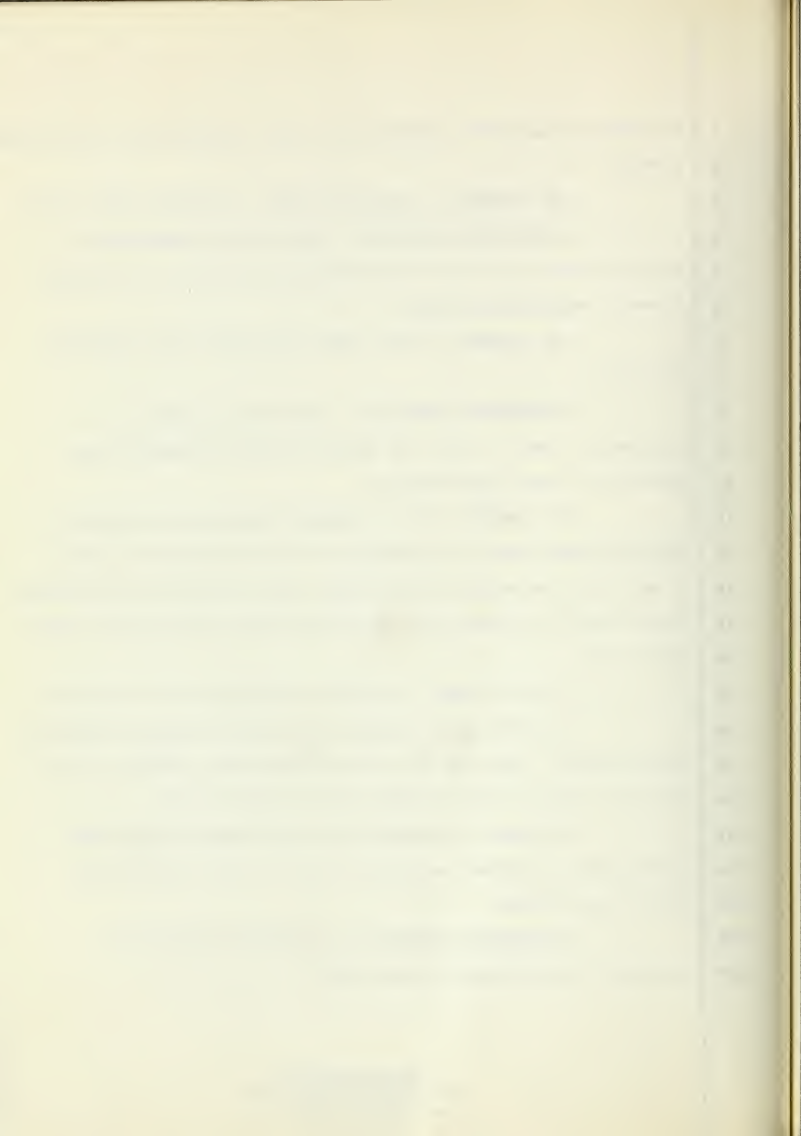
12 MR. SANDHU: Yes. Whenever there is an election
13 that Delancey Street is interested in or John Maher has made
14 a deal with one of the politicians, then we go out and register
15 voters and go out and vote for those people we are given slate
16 cards for.

17 I can't vote. I am not a citizen of this country.

18 A slate card is drawn up of all the people Delancey
19 Street backs. When you go in the voter booth, nobody can tell
20 what you did, but this is what you are told to do.

21 Everyone is rounded up at 795 Eighth Avenue and
22 instructed on precinct walking, on who to vote for and the
23 whole ball of wax.

24 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Is everyone required to
25 register in San Francisco and vote?



1 MR. SANDHU: They were until the last election, until
2 the heat came on about voter fraud.

3 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Up until that point in time
4 the people who lived in Marin County were required to register
5 in San Francisco?

6 MR. SANDHU: Yes, they voted.

7 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: And to vote?

8 MR. SANDHU: Yes.

9 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: And they were given a slate
10 card and told who to vote for?

11 MR. SANDHU: How to vote.

12 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Now, what is the procedure
13 when one enters the facility of Delaney Street as a resident
14 of the Foundation?

15 MR. SANDHU: There are three ways you can go in.

16 You can go in like I did. I was a drug addict. I
17 walked in off the street.

18 The other way is you can be a total square or a
19 total good person who has not done anything but is lonely and
20 wants to be with an organization and have a family around them
21 or whatever it is.

22 Or you can come to them through the courts.

23 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: What is the procedure with
24 respect to your belongings, your assets, when you enter?

25 MR. SANDHU: You donate those. You are told, or



1 you are asked at the time you come in that you will have to
2 donate all your belongings.

3 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: And are there other requirements
4 with respect to federal programs, food stamps, Medi-Cal and so
5 forth?

6 MR. SANDHU: Everybody there is required to be on
7 Medi-Cal. There is no health and welfare program for people
8 there.

9 I left Delancey Street. I can't use Medi-Cal because
10 I am working, but I can't afford medical care.

11 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: What about food stamps?

12 MR. SANDHU: Everyone is required to have food stamps
13 and go to Otis Street and apply for them.

14 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: What happens to them when you
15 get them?

16 MR. SANDHU: They are taken into the kitchen or
17 food department there, and they do with them what they please.

18 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: You turn your food stamps
19 into the Foundation?

20 MR. SANDHU: You never see them. Once a year you
21 renew it.

22 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: You don't get them directly?

23 MR. SANDHU: No, you don't.

24 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Are they sent to you by the
25 Social Service Department?



1 MR. SANDHU: Sent to the Foundation.

2 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: How much do you get per month?

3 MR. SANDHU: I presume it is about \$18,000, \$20,000
4 a month.

5 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Now, what do you receive by
6 way of compensation?

7 MR. SANDHU: Well, after you are there 18 months,
8 you get \$20 a month. Everybody except for John Maher, who has
9 unlimited access to money and credit cards.

10 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: I would like to know what the
11 purpose of this hearing is.

12 SUPERVISOR BARBAGELATA: Sir, you are out of order.

13 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: I would like to know what the
14 purpose of this hearing is, and if the purpose of the hearing --
15 If the testimony does not pertain to that purpose, I would like
16 to know why it is being heard.

17 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: You will have an opportunity
18 to speak.

19 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: Could I have an answer to this?

20 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: This man asked to testify.
21 He made statements in writing.

22 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: In regard to what matters is this
23 Committee hearing?

24 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Voter fraud.

25 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: How many food stamps we get has



1 to do with voter fraud?

2 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: That has to do with -- That
3 is in the statement that was given to us.

4 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: I suggest it is irrelevant.

5 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Before we get through, it
6 won't be.

7 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: I ask we maintain some degree
8 of orderliness and not have people yelling back and forth.
9 Perhaps, we should have a police officer to eject people who
10 persist in interrupting the hearing.

11 I suggest that we recess for a few moments and get
12 some police officer down here and have an orderly proceeding.
13 These people are sitting in the back yelling back and forth.
14 It is not the way we normally conduct our hearings. I don't
15 care to participate in this hearing being conducted in this
16 disorderly fashion.

17 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Supervisor Nelder,
18 Supervisor Francois is suggesting that we recess the meeting
19 and ask for someone from the Police Department to come here.
20 I don't think there is a need for that. Everyone will have a
21 chance to speak.

22 This gentleman has asked to make a statement. He
23 contacted us and requested to make a statement. For what purpose
24 he wants to make the statement it is up to him. He did make
25 a statement. It is in writing and we will put it on the record



1 here today.

2 Anyone else who wants to add something to the
3 Committee's report is welcome to do so. I hope we maintain
4 order. There are not that many people that we should have a
5 problem. If this man's statement makes somebody nervous, I
6 am sorry.

7 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Why don't we proceed in an orderly
8 fashion and hear the testimony.

9 If the situation warrants a police officer, I am
10 a pretty good judge of that. Why don't we proceed.

11 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: The issue is here that part
12 of the deputy registrars, 145 of them of the Coalition are
13 identified, without a doubt with their own signatures, out of
14 DelanceyStreet.

15 This gentleman has some opinions and statements that
16 he wants to make with respect to what goes on at DelanceyStreet
17 on registration drives which is pertinent to these hearings.

18 So if you would like to continue, then we can get
19 down to the bottom of this.

20 Let me just ask a couple of questions first. The
21 issue here is that you gave fifty some odd names off the top
22 of your head that were people registered at DelanceyStreet,
23 and on the last page you referred to many names, and it was
24 verified that they were deputy registrars, and these are the
25 ones you can remember.



1 Did you say that all these people lived in Sausalito?

2 MR. SANDHU: Yes, they did, most of them. I think
3 they all did at that time.

4 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Let's take Jim McDermot, Vickie
5 Milano --

6 MR. SANDHU: For the record, these people lived in
7 Sausalito at the time they were active as registrars.

8 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: They were registrars in
9 San Francisco and lived in Sausalito?

10 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: They were registrars in San
11 Francisco, and they acted as deputy registrars?

12 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: They are all deputy registrars.
13 This has been verified.

14 Claire Behan?

15 MR. SANDU: Sausalito.

16 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Carol Bevensy?

17 MR. SANDHU: I am not positive about her.

18 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Mary Ayers?

19 MR. SANDHU: Sausalito.

20 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Laura Ganley?

21 MR. SANDHU: Sausalito.

22 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Jose Amador?

23 MR. SANDHU: Sausalito.

24 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Laurie Hodges?

25 MR. SANDHU: Sausalito.



1 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Mark Hepper?

2 MR. SANDHU: I am not positive.

3 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Oral Nelson?

4 MR. SANDHU: I am not positive.

5 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Charlotte Martin?

6 MR. SANDHU: Sausalito.

7 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Booker Morley?

8 MR. SANDHU: Sausalito.

9 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Dawn Devaletti?

10 MR. SANDHU: Sausalito.

11 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Verna Ford?

12 MR. SANDHU: Sausalito.

13 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Milton Combs?

14 MR. SANDHU: Sausalito.

15 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Dick Grant?

16 MR. SANDHU: Sausalito.

17 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Lavetta Taylor?

18 MR. SANDHU: Sausalito.

19 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Sylvester Herring?

20 MR. SANDHU: Sausalito.

21 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Any other names you can think

22 of? These came off the top of your head to hand in?

23 MR. SANDHU: Yes, Lawrence Jackson.

24 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Does he live in Sausalito?

25 MR. SANDHU: Yes.

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1 Bernard Spevack, San Francisco, has graduated.

2 Ed Marcellous and possibly Barbara Thompson.

3 SUPERVISOR BARBAGELATA: These are all people
4 registered at DelanceyStreet?

5 MR. SANDHU: They were registered in San Francisco
6 but told not to vote at the last election because of the heat
7 coming down behind voter fraud.

8 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: At the last election?

9 MR. SANDHU: I think a lot of those people did
10 register people, because we were to get thirty-five cents a
11 name, and what John wanted to do was put as many people as
12 we could get out there.

13 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: If you want to flip the page
14 these are the people who were deputy registrars. Those are
15 all the registrars. Were any of those also living out of
16 town, the ones at the DelanceyStreet address?

17 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: As I understand it, the ones
18 from Delancy Street are yellow.

19 MR. SANDHU: We have two on this page that I know
20 for sure were in Sausalito.

21 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Who are they there?

22 MR. SANDHU: Jose Amador and Michael Aquino.

23 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Next page?

24 MR. SANDHU: Mary Ayers.

25 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Sausalito?

1 MR. SANDHU: Yes.

2 Charlotte Baker, Sausalito.

3 Margaret Louise Bancroft, Sausalito.

4 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: And would you give us the
5 address they show, their home address?

6 MR. SANDHU: 795 Eighth Avenue

7 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Okay.

8 MR. SANDHU: Rick Barnes, Sausalito.

9 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Home address?

10 MR. SANDHU: 795 Eighth Avenue.

11 Stephen Barton, I think he wasn't living in San
12 Francisco at that time.

13 Clare M. Behan, Sausalito. She was registered at
14 795 Eighth Avenue. There is nobody on this page.

15 Okay. William Laverne Boin was not in San Francisco
16 at that time.

17 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: What is his registrar's
18 address?

19 MR. SANDHU: 3001 Pacific. He might not have been
20 there.

21 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: There is a question about that?

22 MR. SANDHU: Yes, because this is after or this is
23 before 795 Eighth Avenue. This is when the Foundation was on
24 3001 Pacific.

25 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: I see.

1 MR. SANDHU: Milton A. Combs.

2 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Can I ask a question? Does
3 Delancey Street have a place in Sausalito?

4 MR. SANDHU: Yes, they have a facility in Sausalito?

5 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: How many people live in
6 Sausalito?

7 MR. SANDHU: I would say anywhere between 75 and 100.

8 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: And how many people live out
9 on Eighth Avenue?

10 MR. SANDHU: I would say 120 to 140.

11 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: How are you so certain as to
12 who was living where at the time?

13 MR. SANDHU: Because for a long time I did all the
14 moving in the house. In the Foundation for two or three years
15 I housed the people in different facilities. Especially
16 the Sausalito one I remember. It was a new facility, and it
17 was a reward thing for people who worked hard, and a lot of
18 people who are in there now I moved in there myself.

19 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: During the period in question
20 were you in charge of housing, during this period when these
21 people were acting as deputy registrars?

22 MR. SANDHU: I don't know. I gave it up a year or
23 a year and a half ago. I am not positive. I still remember
24 the names because a lot of the people I was and still am
25 personal friends with.

1 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: We are talking about the voter
2 registration drive for November, 1975?

3 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Spring and summer of last
4 year.

5 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Of 1975. So that is the
6 period of time I have in mind. Were you then?

7 MR. SANDHU: I was then vice-president, and at that
8 time I was running or supposed to be running the business, the
9 Foundation. I remember a clear instance where we were in
10 a meeting around the table and John Maher came down and stated
11 we were going to get thirty-five cents a name and to put as
12 many people out there who were not doing anything, as many
13 free hands as they had on weekends, at night, set up tables
14 at supermarkets and register them.

15 Whether you lived at 2563 Divisadero or Stockton,
16 or Sausalito, you register people: Number one, because we
17 were backing Mayor Moscone; and Number two, because we were
18 getting thirty-five cents a name.

19 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Were you backing other
20 candidates?

21 MR. SANDHU: Yes, we did. I forget all the
22 candidates. There were school board candidates. There were
23 BART board candidates. There were many candidates. Judge
24 Cragan we backed very heavily, very heavily and sent 20, 30
25 people out every night for Judge Cragan. I even hung signs

1 for Judge O'Gragan.

2 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: And you say you had a slate
3 card?

4 MR. SANDHU: They were presented before elections
5 with what Delancey Street suggested we vote for. John made a
6 statement: It is not enough that a guy comes to change his
7 life. If you are not here to help us change the world, you
8 have to get out.

9 You have a lot of people having 20 or 30 years
10 hanging over them, and if I say they go or John says they go,
11 the guy is going to do what he doesn't feel like doing. He
12 has the 20 years to life hanging over him. I would do the
13 same thing.

14 People's human and civil rights are taken away from
15 them. They make a lot of money getting food stamps and grants,
16 but there are people on mattresses after you get past the
17 second floor on 795 Eighth Avenue. It looks like the
18 godfather with mattresses.

19 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Can we stay on the issue?
20 Can we go through that?

21 MR. SANDHU: Carol Crone, Sausalito.

22 Dawn Devaliti, Sausalito.

23 Pat Fitzharris, Sausalito.

24 Verna R. Ford, Sausalito.

25 Laura Renee Ganly, Sausalito.

Jean Fuller, Sausalito.

Michael E. George, possibly Sausalito.

Dick Grant, Sausalito.

Mark R. Grims, Sausalito.

SUPERVISOR BARBAGELATA: These are all at the Eighth Avenue address?

MR. SANDHU: Eighth Avenue or 2563 Divisadero.

Willie Lee Harper, Sausalito.

Brian Hadwin, Sausalito.

Laurie G. Hodges, Sausalito.

Sylvester Herring, Sausalito.

Jeanne M. Heslin, Sausalito.

SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Where does Sylvester Herring live now?

MR. SANDHU: Sausalito.

SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: He is still involved in voting registration?

MR. SANDHU: I wouldn't know. I was told to leave there September 20.

SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: I would like to have that matter looked into. My information is that presently he is very active in the voter registration drive.

MR. WILLIAM MAHER: There presently is no voter registration drive, sir.

MR. SANDHU: Raymond Maler.



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1 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Will this transcript be made
2 available to the District Attorney's Office?

3 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: As soon as it is finished,
4 it will.

5 MR. SANDHU: James S. McDermott, Sausalito.

6 Carol Diane Mendell, Sausalito.

7 Allan H. Mikesell, Sausalito.

8 Vickie L. Milano, Sausalito.

9 Marcia Moody, Sausalito.

10 Booker T. Morley, Sausalito.

11 Nancy Patricia Murphy, Sausalito.

12 Vivian M. Neal, Sausalito.

13 Steve E. Pope, Sausalito.

14 Linda J. Reed, Sausalito.

15 Dane Ryan, Sausalito.

16 Ann Raymond Sheehan, Sausalito.

17 David Silva, Sausalito.

18 Martha Skinner, Sausalito.

19 Donald Stratford, Sausalito.

20 David R. Taylor, Sausalito.

21 Lavetta Patricia Taylor, Sausalito.

22 Jeana Lenore Volk, Sausalito.

23 Lester Orville Wisler, Sausalito.

24 David E. Woertink, Sausalito.

25 Richard D. Wosser, Sausalito.

1 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Thank you, Mr. Sandhu.
2 What you are saying, for the record, is that those people, to
3 the best of your memory, were not living at the Delancey Street
4 address in San Francisco but were living, as a matter of fact,
5 in Sausalito.

6 MR. SANDHU: Yes.

7 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Do you think they are
8 reasonably accurate on most of those?

9 MR. SANDHU: Yes. Maybe two or three names one
10 way or the other.

11 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: You may be in error?

12 MR. SANDHU: Some people might have moved a little
13 after or a little before I left, but most of the names I am
14 positive about.

15 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Thank you.

16 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Just this question: I think
17 it is reasonable that it will be contended that all these
18 people lived at the Eighth Avenue facility. What is the
19 maximum capacity of that facility?

20 MR. SANDHU: Well, if you are talking about human
21 terms, probably sixty, maybe seventy, but if you are talking
22 about crowded terms, 140, the way it is now.

23 See, John makes statements that he doesn't need
24 anybody there. He can go out and get forty convicts anytime
25 he wants. He can open up the prisons and get forty convicts.

1 You do what they say. A lot of that has to do with
2 voting.

3 There was one couple that asked for food stamps,
4 because their kids didn't get enough food. They said they
5 couldn't make it on \$20 a week, and can we have our food
6 stamps, and they were told, no, we can't do that.

7 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Can we stay on the issue?

8 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: What I was trying to pin down
9 is that during the period of time when the voter registration
10 drive was in progress, approximately how many people were
11 staying there?

12 MR. SANDHU: Probably about 130, 140, anywhere
13 between a hundred thirty and 140.

14 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: But you are reasonable certain
15 that the names you have given as Sausalito were not living
16 at Eighth Avenue?

17 MR. SANDHU: Reasonably certain, yes.

18 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Do you have any questions?

19 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Yes, first of all, I would want
20 you to understand I don't know much about Delancey Street, and
21 that is why I am asking you these basic questions.

22 Do I understand you to say you were there since 1971?

23 MR. SANDHU: Yes.

24 SUPERVISOR NELDER: And up until September of this
25 year?

1 MR. SANDHU: September 20.
2 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Did you have some title?
3 MR. SANDHU: I was director and vice-president for
4 a long time.
5 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Let me ask you, first of all,
6 do you know any of the three of us personally?
7 MR. SANDHU: No, except from --
8 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Just like everybody else knows
9 us?
10 MR. SANDHU: Yes.
11 SUPERVISOR NELDER: This is the first time that you
12 ever came here to discuss this before us?
13 MR. SANDHU: No, I came once before.
14 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Did you come of your own volition?
15 MR. SANDHU: Yes, I did.
16 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Have you been promised anything?
17 MR. SANDHU: No.
18 SUPERVISOR NELDER: I asked you a question: Did you
19 have a title with Delancey Street?
20 MR. SANDHU: Yes, I did.
21 SUPERVISOR NELDER: What was it?
22 MR. SANDHU: Vice-President.
23 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Vice-President, and who were
24 some of the other people who have titles, if you know.
25 MR. SANDHU: There were some directors there, Mo

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1 Hodges, Thomas Grapshi, Michael Berger was a lawyer and outside
2 director.

3 Daniel Weinstein used to be a director. I don't
4 know if he still is since he became Assistant District Attorney.

5 Bill Tolliver. That's about it.

6 SUPERVISOR NELDER: What primarily would their
7 function be? Did they meet at 795 Eighth Avenue?

8 MR. SANDHU: 2563 Divisadero is political
9 headquarters.

10 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Do you believe that the people
11 that -- What do you call yourselves, residents?

12 MR. SANDHU: Yes.

13 SUPERVISOR NELDER: The residents were encouraged
14 or ordered to go out for thirty-five cents per registration
15 and register people to vote?

16 MR. SANDHU: They were ordered to go out. Your name
17 is put on the board that you are going out to register voters.
18 It is on the board. You come in, and that day you are going
19 out. I don't know if they knew they were going out for
20 thirty-five cents. They may not.

21 John told me personally that we would get thirty-five
22 cents a name for this, and not only would we make extra money
23 that we needed at the time, but we would help our candidates,
24 people we wanted to get in office.

25 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Who would actually tell you that?

1 MR. SANDHU: John Maher.

2 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Did you, yourself, go out and
3 register voters?

4 MR. SANDHU: No.

5 SUPERVISOR NELDER: I heard you say you did other
6 things like put up signs?

7 MR. SANDHU: I put up signs for Judge Cragan one
8 time. I personally volunteered for that because we were short
9 some people, and we had to pull people out of one of the
10 businesses. So I said I would go.

11 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Maybe the questions I am asking
12 have been asked. Have they been asked ever?

13 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: No.

14 SUPERVISOR NELDER: You identified some residents
15 from Delancey Street who were registering voters; is that
16 correct?

17 MR. SANDHU: Yes.

18 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Did you, yourself, ever see any
19 of the so-called Delancey Street residents registering people?

20 MR. SANDHU: Yes, Safeway.

21 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Right at the 795 Eighth Avenue
22 facility with a table set out in front?

23 MR. SANDHU: Various other supermarkets, business
24 areas, shopping malls.

25 SUPERVISOR NELDER: The supermarket, do you have one

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1 in mind where this happened?

2 MR. SANDHU: Safeway on Eighth Avenue.

3 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Now, on that occasion did you
4 actually know the persons?

5 Let me ask that question again: Did you know the
6 people who were residents from Delancy Street, who were doing
7 the registrations?

8 MR. SANDHU: Yes, but I can't tell you which one
9 was doing it then. Many times they were out in front of the
10 facility on Eighth Avenue.

11 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Did you go over to talk to them,
12 or did they talk to you?

13 MR. SANDHU: No, I never went out on voter
14 registration.

15 SUPERVISOR NELDER: No. While they were registering
16 people?

17 MR. SANDHU: I went by and said, "How are you doing?"

18 SUPERVISOR NELDER: So there is no question in your
19 mind about the identification of the people?

20 MR. SANDHU: No.

21 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Who would tell you who the
22 candidates were who you would push?

23 MR. SANDHU: There would be a meeting. I was only
24 at one or two political meetings. One was when the thirty-
25 five cents per item came up, but on the election board thing,

1 on the board, everybody showed up at 8:00 o'clock in the
2 morning or 7:00 o'clock. It was a regular workday. You
3 would have breakfast, and people would make speeches where
4 you would work and who we were voting for, the slate card
5 and the whole number. It was a really suggestive type of thing.

6 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Were things explained to you?

7 MR. SANDHU: Because they were the candidates who
8 would be most likely to do things you wanted to do. I believed
9 them for a long time, to get people who were doing things for
10 you and other minorities, but I found out it was to make John
11 a big shot.

12 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Were you forced to cooperate?
13 Were people forced to go out and register people against their
14 will?

15 MR. SANDHU: They knew -- I know of one guy who was
16 kicked out for having a bad attitude and being a friend of
17 mine because I was a no-no around there for a long time. He
18 was picked up and came in at 6:30 and wanted dinner, and
19 that night we were going out precinct walking, and they said
20 he was going.

21 A barber, a therapist, that is what they called them,
22 she jumped up and got in his face and said, "You are going
23 out, or you get out." I pulled him aside and said, "Go out.
24 It isn't worth getting tossed out."

25 He went out. There are many people I have talked to,

1 many graduates, who are no longer considered graduated, no
2 longer follow Delancey Street.

3 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Let me ask you a question: Why
4 are you using this means to air a gripe that is your own?

5 MR. SANDHU: Yes, I have already said that.

6 SUPERVISOR NELDER: And you are also cooperating with
7 this Committee in bringing us information that we can turn over
8 to the District Attorney's Office to clean up the voter fraud,
9 but you have your personal reason for this in addition to,
10 as you pointed out, being fed up with being forced into
11 political activities you didn't feel you should have to do?

12 MR. SANDHU: Having to put people in funny positions.
13 I have seen a lot of things. When I went into Delancey Street
14 five years ago, we had certain ideals, and politics became --
15 It was a necessary evil. I thought it was being done for
16 people. I really did. I really believed that outside of what
17 I did, it was a necessary evil.

18 Now, it has become like the mainstay in Delancey
19 Street. It is a political machine.

20 At any time a politician could come over and have
21 a party in the club, and all the residents get shooed out.
22 They get told, "Ride the bus to Sausalito or go in your rooms."

23 John and I had many beefs about that.

24 One thing about all these names I have given you,
25 they are not at fault. There is a life sentence hung over

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1 their heads, people have kids, guys have twenty years hanging
2 over their heads. They are not going to do it.

3 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: What is the People's
4 Democratic Club?

5 MR. SANDHU: I don't know much about that. I don't
6 much about that.

7 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Do they bring you into a
8 separate organization when you register people called the
9 People's Democratic Club, like it is a political arm of Delancey
10 Street?

11 MR. SANDHU: They have a political committee.

12 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: That is the way most of the
13 people are registered.

14 MR. SANDHU: I don't know where the offices are, if
15 they are separate from Delancey Street. I know most of the
16 people in there and who run it are from Delancey Street.

17 I don't know much about the whole political thing.
18 I know names, where they might have been and stuff like that.
19 That is one end I don't get involved with.

20 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Let me ask this question: You
21 say members were instructed, ordered, to go out and register
22 voters. What would happen if you didn't?

23 MR. SANDHU: You would get chastised, and if you
24 really put up a beef, you would get asked to leave, because
25 you are told in a meeting that just changing your life isn't

1 enough; you have to help us change the world. It isn't enough
2 a guy has been a screw-up for twenty years and is trying to
3 change his life. He has to change the world too.

4 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: On the selection of which
5 candidates and issues to support, was this done in a
6 democratic fashion where you have a meeting and vote?

7 MR. SANDHU: John has been known to make statements
8 like: "Three years from now you can vote for a communist or
9 anything. Right now, if you have not been here three years,
10 you are not well. We want you voting this way, because we
11 are going to help you out and these are the people that are
12 going to help us."

13 John wouldn't therapize people or chastise them.
14 He has others do it.

15 In all fairness to him, he doesn't know if -- He
16 doesn't do it, but you either do it or don't and the medicine
17 is left for the lieutenants and lower echelon officers to do.

18 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: But in direct answer to my
19 question, do you have meetings where you have ballots and cast
20 secret ballots as to which candidates and issues --

21 MR. SANDHU: No.

22 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: -- you choose to support?

23 MR. SANDHU: No.

24 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: That all comes down from on
25 high?



1 MR. SANDHU: Yes. Yes, I mean, there are candidates
2 we are going to support and that is it, and we will push it.

3 It has become -- It was a drug addiction cure place
4 and a place for ex-convicts to get their wheels right. It has
5 become a cesspool of political activity.

6 Senator Tunney will come in there, and people who
7 live there get pushed back. We are not supposed to drink
8 alcohol. We are not supposed to shoot or smoke dope, because
9 that is what we are supposed to be away from.

10 You have alcohol all over the place, drunken people
11 hanging out in these people's house. That is what it is.

12 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Could we stay on the subject?
13 Do we have any more questions?

14 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Do you have any objection to
15 talking to the District Attorney?

16 MR. SANDHU: Not if it will get what I want to get,
17 and that is to do right by these people. There are a lot
18 of people who are really oppressed in Delancey Street, really
19 badly.

20 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Do you have any concern about
21 your personal safety as a result of coming forward?

22 MR. SANDHU: I have two kids, and I have about five
23 or six very close friends, the guys that I brought up, the
24 guys I took personally under my own who are being threatened
25 while there. I am trying to get some things together to pull

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1 them out.

2 Nobody can do anything that hasn't been done to me
3 already in the last seven months and to people around me.

4 They don't get to me, so they start messing with
5 people around me. They kick a guy out and threatened another
6 guy I am in contact with. Some of these people they come
7 over to my house. They can't do anything to me that hasn't
8 been done. I am not afraid. If something happens, where
9 would it happen from?

10 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: I don't have any questions.
11 Do you have any questions?

12 SUPERVISOR NELDER: No.

13 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: No.

14 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Thank you.

15 ---oOo---

16 MR. BOB SHAPIRO: Would it be possible to quietly
17 and respectfully question the witness from the floor?

18 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Through the chairman. No,
19 that would be out of order. You can come up and make your
20 statement if you like. Would you like to talk? You are
21 welcome to talk.

22 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: I would like to make a brief
23 statement.

24 My name is Bill Maher. I am a director of Delancey
25 Street. I live at 795 Eighth Avenue.

1 The only thing I would like to say is that I don't
2 think at this point I have the information to contest what has
3 been said.

4 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: You want to --

5 THE CLERK: Do you want this testimony under oath?

6 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Very well. What have we been
7 doing today? Maybe we should bring the first man back. How
8 do you want to do that?

9 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: I think we will have to forego
10 testimony under oath since we didn't take it from the first
11 witness.

12 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: No.

13 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: I do not have the statistics
14 in front of me where all our people are housed at this point.
15 I am certain that Mr. Sandhu is correct that some of the people
16 are temporarily assigned to Sausalito. We continually
17 reassign our people from one house to another. They are
18 assigned permanent addresses within our organization, and after
19 that they are transferred as the necessities of housing and
20 necessities of putting some leadership in various sites goes.

21 If a person is temporarily assigned to Sausalito
22 or temporarily assigned to Divisadero, or Eighth Avenue, or
23 Pacific temporarily, they are residents of our organization,
24 and they are residents of San Francisco.

25 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: So you treat everybody,

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1 whether they live in Sausalito, as a resident of San Francisco.

2 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: That's correct. They are all
3 residents of San Francisco, who may or may not be assigned
4 to a variety of our facilities. If they are not by Election
5 Day registered at a home other than the one they are assigned
6 to, we tell them not to vote in that election, because we
7 prefer they be at their actual residence.

8 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: You say it is okay for them
9 to be deputy registrars, but you don't think they should vote?

10 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: It is okay for them to vote, too.

11 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Why did you tell them not to
12 vote?

13 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: Because there was an enormous
14 flap, and it wasn't worth the hassle.

15 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Why would you make a division
16 between being a qualified resident of the City to register
17 voters?

18 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: They are quite qualified to vote.
19 The only reason we did that was a great flap, and we didn't
20 feel like having to prove that we had the legal authority to
21 do what we do.

22 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: So you told them not to vote?

23 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: We did not. We told them that
24 if you are in Sausalito, we prefer you didn't.

25 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: The 52 people who were deputy

1 registrars at that address, and we are talking about the
2 testimony of a gentleman here, Mon Singh Sandhu, and I don't
3 know if it is all true --

4 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: A considerable amount of his
5 testimony is flagrant lies.

6 I would like to say one more thing at this time.

7 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Let me finish my point.

8 The 52 people who were checked that they were
9 registrars but it is a coincidence, and a big one, that none
10 of those people voted.

11 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: It is not a coincidence at all.
12 There was an enormous amount of flack at the time in regard
13 to the exact definition of residency, of voting, et cetera,
14 et cetera. We felt that it would be more appropriate, under
15 the circumstances, to simply pass up our opportunity to
16 exercise our franchise in that election, to check for
17 clarification from our attorneys as to the exact rules, and
18 having gotten clarification that we are independent residents
19 of San Francisco, we do intend to vote in subsequent elections.

20 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: All people in Delancey Street
21 intend to vote, no matter if they are in Sausalito?

22 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: All of the people who live in
23 San Francisco and are registered San Francisco voters, whether
24 or not assigned to Sausalito to that facility, are still
25 residents, and if they choose to, they may vote.



1 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: How many people would this
2 entail?

3 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: Approximately 75.

4 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: A total of those who live in
5 Eighth Avenue and --

6 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: No, we have approximately 360
7 residents. Approximately 75 live in the Sausalito facility.
8 That number rotates regularly as it does in all our houses.

9 In six years I have lived in about 16 different
10 facilities all within the City limits, except for one stint
11 of six months where I lived in Sausalito.

12 We have reassigned our people continually as the
13 needs of families, marriages take place, children are born
14 and rewards for various people who excel in work and school,
15 and everything else. Therefore, there is a continual shuffle
16 of people within the organization where we feel we need more
17 leadership or older leadership to watch and care for new members,
18 if there are too few there. So there is a constant shuffle.

19 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: You don't consider them to
20 be residents of Sausalito?

21 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: Absolutely not. They have not
22 registered there. They don't vote there. They are residents
23 of San Francisco, unless they choose to become residents of
24 Sausalito. We cannot stop them from doing that. They have
25 almost universally maintained San Francisco registration.

1870-1871

1871-1872

1872-1873

1873-1874

1874-1875

1875-1876

1876-1877

1877-1878

1878-1879

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1886-1887

1887-1888

1888-1889

1889-1890

1890-1891

1891-1892

1892-1893

1 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Do you tell people how to vote?

2 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: No, we do have two Democratic
3 and one Republican Club and we support candidates, and issues,
4 and voter registration drives.

5 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: What is the People's Democratic
6 Club?

7 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: It is a Democratic Club chartered
8 with the Democratic party. That is an activity in Democratic
9 politics.

10 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: There is not one person
11 registered there as a Republican. All the people are Democrats.

12 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: That may be so.

13 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Do you have one person, just
14 one person, just one person? There is not one in the book.

15 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: There is not one what?

16 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: In that book there are, if
17 you want to go through it, there are 145, I believe, names
18 of people who live at Eighth Avenue, and you do have capacity
19 for 145 people.

20 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: We have capacity in excess of
21 that.

22 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Of those people in the
23 Democratic Club, there is not one that has --

24 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: We have a Republican Club that
25 has worked for Republican candidates.



1 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Anybody identified within
2 this group?

3 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: You named several of them in the
4 group of them. That was the umbrella group working with the
5 Coalition to Register 100,000 Voters. That represents
6 Socialists, Communists who took part in that drive. As far
7 as purposes of the umbrella, for purposes of the record as
8 far as the purposes of the thirty-five cents on the drive by
9 the Democratic party, we chose to have one group as an umbrella
10 group.

11 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Who got the thirty-five cents?

12 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: It was assigned to the People's
13 Democratic Club. It was given to the individual members,
14 the vast majority of whom put it into the People's Democratic
15 Club, which is our political group.

16 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Is that an incorporated
17 organization?

18 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: It is a registered Democratic
19 Club with the Democratic party.

20 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Is it a corporation?

21 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: No, it is a Democratic club.

22 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Delancey Street is incorporated?

23 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: It is.

24 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: You are a nonprofit
25 corporation?



1 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: Yes.

2 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: You have tax-exempt status?

3 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: 501(c) 3, that's correct.

4 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: But you have all this political
5 activity going on?

6 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: When we became a 501(c)3, we
7 gave up the right to have Delancey Street give money to
8 candidates, indorse candidates, put signs on the property. We
9 cannot sell out our people's First Amendment rights.

10 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Do you have a slate card?

11 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: Our Democratic Club has a slate
12 card. It doesn't say "Delancey Street."

13 Delancey Street has never, never endorsed a single
14 candidate. For your information, the People's Democratic
15 Club does, and the Republican Club does. Delancey does not
16 and cannot.

17 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: You heard the last witness
18 say that at a meeting of Delancey Street people they are
19 instructed?

20 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: That is a lie.

21 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: That is a lie?

22 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: We threw Mr. Sandhu out because
23 we have had problems with him for two years. We suspected
24 him of a burglary within our own organization, and because he
25 was poisoning a lot of our people. He was thrown out. He was



1 not fit to remain in our organization, and he comes to you
2 with his sour grapes and he is welcome to do so.

3 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Mr. Sandhu did say at the
4 meetings of the residents candidates are put forward as persons
5 that the residents of Delancey Street should support; is that
6 a lie?

7 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: What we do is we do get together
8 within our clubs, within our political structure, and we do
9 support candidates, and we do tell everyone we possibly can
10 in this City to get out, and everywhere else, these are the
11 people that some of us are supporting. We are supporting them.
12 We hope you will vote for them.

13 We don't hold people's hands to the polls, and
14 we have no way of checking. We say who I am supporting, who
15 Bill is supporting, who John is supporting, who this guy and
16 that guy are supporting. We get together and say who we think
17 are good candidates for the City.

18 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: When you say "within our
19 political --

20 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: The Republican Club, the
21 Democratic Club, the James Michael Curley Democratic Club.
22 They are completely separate. They have separate locations,
23 separate banking accounts, separate phone numbers. They are
24 completely separate.

25 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: You say separate locations?



1 Tell me where they are located.

2 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: Some of them are located at
3 various friends' houses throughout the City. I would have to
4 check the addresses. That is simply mailing.

5 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: You don't know where they are
6 located at this point?

7 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: No, I don't.

8 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: You have these separate
9 political entities and you can't tell me now where they are
10 located?

11 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: All we have is mail drops. That
12 is all we need for our purposes.

13 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Where do you meet?

14 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: At friends' houses around the
15 City, at my apartment, in a variety of places.

16 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Tell me some of the places
17 where you have met.

18 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: At friends' houses around the
19 City.

20 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Name them.

21 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: I don't have to, Supervisor, or
22 we have met at the Democratic party headquarters, at
23 headquarters of candidates. We don't meet that regularly.

24 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: You can stand here and be as
25 glib as you want. The IRS may take a different view.

1 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: The IRS has been through us. We
2 are perfectly -- I don't have a house sign for my own campaign
3 in my own window. Nor do we have bumper strips on vehicles
4 for any candidate.

5 I must confess that it is a great inconvenience
6 and it is even difficult for our people to propagandize for
7 voting within the place where they live, but we have been
8 scrupulous in that.

9 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: You heard the last witness
10 say within the facility at Eighth Avenue parties were
11 organized to go out and work for Judge Craegan.

12 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: That's correct.

13 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Within that facility?

14 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: We rent our facilities. We
15 rent both the facilities which have dining capacity and our
16 restaurant. We make money on those things. We have never had
17 a free benefit for a political purpose. We do rent to a
18 number of political causes, a number of which we don't even
19 support.

20 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: So you are telling us there
21 never has been an occasion when a political event has been held
22 when rent wasn't paid?

23 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: Correct, and we have the checks
24 and receipts.

25 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: What about the testimony that



1 liquor was sold?

2 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: We rent a liquor license for
3 that night. We have a bar at both facilities. We rent a
4 liquor license for the night. We don't use it the rest of the
5 year.

6 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: You say "we," are you
7 speaking of Delancey Street or the political party?

8 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: The political party, or usually
9 the group that rents it from us does it. They are inexperienced,
10 we do it, and they pay for it.

11 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Give me the names of officers of
12 the political clubs you are talking about. Give me the names
13 of the presidents.

14 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: I think you will have to get
15 that information under subpoena.

16 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Maybe the Internal Revenue
17 Service can get it under subpoena, but you refuse to give it?

18 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: I'll consult with our attorneys
19 first.

20 In fact, there are very few questions I intend to
21 answer without consulting our attorneys.

22 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: In view of the witnesses'
23 sudden wish to clam up --

24 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: I asked to testify, not be
25 cross-examined.



1 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: I know it is very uncomfortable
2 to be cross-examined.

3 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: Not at all.

4 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Would you like to answer any
5 questions?

6 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: On your own registration,
7 you showed Delancey Street.

8 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: As what?

9 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Organization.

10 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: That's the organization to which
11 I belong. I also belong to a variety of other organizations.
12 I often use Delancey Street.

13 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: You still have a book
14 outstanding?

15 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: I believe it was returned.

16 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: The records don't show that.

17 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: It is possible that of all the
18 books our club took out, we may have lost one.

19 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: That is you. There are still
20 lots missing.

21 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: I don't think it is correct. I
22 took out a great number of books to distribute to the
23 Democratic Club. If there is one missing, it is my
24 responsibility. I am sure the Registrar will deal with that.

25 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: You hold an office in the

62
1 People's Democratic Club?

2 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: Yes.

3 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: What office?

4 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: Treasurer.

5 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Who is the president?

6 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: We went through this before.

7 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Maybe you had a sudden change
8 of heart.

9 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: The only thing I want to say
10 at this time is that no one has ever, ever, ever been forced
11 to go out on any political drive. Although we strongly
12 encourage our people to be involved in community affairs,
13 we do not necessarily encourage them to be in politics. We
14 encourage work with senior citizens, voter registration, a
15 great variety of community groups, members on community
16 boards throughout the City, and we even encourage them to
17 go into anything that will put them into positions on the
18 outside, because that is where they are going to live, and
19 they should know something about it and have a handle to
20 deal with it.

21 That is our policy to have people take a civic
22 interest. We don't force it. No one has been threatened,
23 fired, removed, kicked out of the organization, had a job
24 change or anything else for failure to do that.

25 We have a number of people who are incredibly

1 apolitical. Football is, actually, our largest single activity
2 at this point.

3 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Let me ask you this: Did you
4 conduct a voter registration drive for this November 2 election?

5 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: We did not do that this year.
6 We didn't feel we had the resources in that we had pressing
7 education and financial needs within our own organization.

8 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: So there was no voter
9 registration activity at all in connection with the November
10 election?

11 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: I am not sure that was none at
12 all. It was certainly marginal if there was one this time.
13 We didn't have the time, energy and resources to be able to
14 have a major drive. We have in the past years, but not all
15 of them. We have wanted to do it all the time.

16 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Did you have a minor drive
17 this time?

18 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: I am not sure of that.

19 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: You don't know?

20 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: I don't know.

21 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: You live there, but you don't
22 know?

23 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: I live with 370 people in a
24 great variety of facilities, and I don't know everything that
25 goes on all the time.

1 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: You are telling the Committee
2 you don't know whether there was a voter registration drive
3 conducted by Delancey Street?

4 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: There was no voter registration
5 drive conducted by Delancey Street or the Democratic Clubs
6 but I can't say that no one went out there.

7 Maybe there were some people who did. We encourage
8 it, but we didn't push it, organize it, or implement it this
9 year, because we didn't have the resources.

10 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Did you have a table outside
11 the facility this time?

12 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: I am not sure.

13 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: You don't know whether you did
14 or not?

15 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: I do not.

16 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: What about last year, last
17 fall? Did you have a table on the sidewalk?

18 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: We had a great deal of things
19 all over the place.

20 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Voter registration drive?

21 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: We had a great variety of voter
22 registration all over the City.

23 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Tell me what is a variety of
24 things?

25 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: We were registering at a great

1 many locations all over the City.

2 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: No, I am talking about outside
3 of the Eighth Avenue facility.

4 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: We may have. I am not sure.

5 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Did you have a slate card?

6 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: No.

7 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: So the gentleman who mentioned
8 the slate card -- Do you have one that you distribute?

9 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: Our Democratic Clubs have in
10 past occasions and the Republican Club does also. Our
11 organization never does.

12 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: The Clubs had slate cards
13 which were distributed to the residents, was that true?

14 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: Some residents, those people
15 who wanted them.

16 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Let me ask you how you arrive
17 at the selection of the people on the slate card?

18 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: I don't believe -- That is a
19 political process that we go through, and I don't believe that
20 is pertinent to this discussion.

21 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: I think you would find it
22 embarrassing how you ordain from on high how these people are
23 going to vote. You are not kidding anybody with consulting an
24 attorney when I ask you a question that might disclose the
25 autocratic way in which you operate.

1 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: I don't know that we have that
2 autocratic an institution. If I may say, I do know that we
3 have members supporting at least three different candidates
4 for mayor. We have never supported less candidates than were
5 on the ballot, and usually there are more, because our people
6 choose who they want to support.

7 We had our people involved in campaigns that I had
8 no interest in.

9 If people wish to exercise their rights, we are not
10 going to stand in their way.

11 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: I hope as a result of this
12 you will institute democratic methods.

13 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: We are not in politics.

14 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Now, the previous witness has
15 testified that there is an effort being made to build a
16 political machine with John Maher at the head of it, and I
17 suggest to you it is not going to work.

18 MR. WILLIAM MAHER: Supervisor, I would like to
19 thank you for your patient hearing and I hope we will be
20 talking to you again on the matter.

21 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Mr. Sandhu?

22 MR. SANDHU: There was one statement made here.

23 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Off the record.

24 (Discussion off the record.)

25 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: You might as well swear the

1 witness.

2 MON SINGH SANDHU

3 first having been duly sworn on oath to testify to
4 the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, testified
5 as follows:

6 MR. SANDHU: I told you when I talked to you what
7 the reasons were that I was doing this for. I didn't expect
8 to get money or favors out of this. I felt I had to do
9 something. I just felt I had to do it.

10 I lost my job in this thing. I was called in a week
11 ago by a lawyer who works for the Foundation, and he said that
12 as long as you accuse Delancey Street, you are fired. I was
13 fired last week.

14 My girl was fired from S & C Ford. She was fired
15 for no reason at all.

16 The curse was put on me last week. I was called by
17 Edward Turnbull at my house, and he said if me and John could
18 get together, there would be a \$20,000, because as it was
19 said, I should stop foul-mouthing because they got better
20 things to do like political.

21 It was a lie about the burglary. The reason I left
22 Delancey Street was that I filed for a divorce at that time.
23 I thought it was unethical for me to be vice-president, and
24 then a discussion came on because he would not agree. I would
25 not agree with everything he said. I wish they were in writing.

1 I asked for a letter of graduation, and I had a letter to say
2 don't come back -- Act okay, or we will call the authorities.
3 I was with these people five years.

4 I would like to find out where this burglary came
5 from. This is an allegation made about me personally, you
6 know.

7 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Okay. Is this the first time
8 the burglary accusation came up, this morning?

9 MR. SANDHU: Yes. I think it is a loose statement.
10 It is a running-scared statement, and I don't like it because,
11 you know, where I came here and the people I have talked to
12 know why I came here. There are people actually being abused
13 in that place, their rights.

14 There was a stick of marijuana found in his car.
15 Ask him about that. We are not supposed to smoke no dope in
16 Delaney Street.

17 SUPERVISOR NELDER: As vice-president would you be
18 receiving a salary there?

19 MR. SANDHU: \$20 a month. There is only one person
20 that gets in excess of that money. That is John Maher. He
21 can take a vacation whenever he wants. There is one general
22 and the rest of us are corporals. It doesn't matter as to
23 rank.

24 SUPERVISOR NELDER: \$20 a month for --

25 MR. SANDHU: \$20 a month for five years.

1 SUPERVISOR NELDER: How do you get to be vice-
2 president?

3 MR. SANDHU: John Maher at a director's meeting --
4 At that time I was a good boy. At that time I was not saying
5 too much. The last two years I talked about it, and I got
6 totally disenfranchised from Delaney Street. I didn't care
7 for it anymore. I went up two years.

8 I said, "I don't want to be vice-president."

9 He said, "I need you"; so I stayed. I had a hassle
10 with his wife, who is the other president, on how to treat
11 people and deal with people. I said that I can't do it that
12 way.

13 I said that I will remain director, but I don't
14 want to be vice-president. He said that he needed me, and
15 didn't have anybody else. I put off my plans and stayed.

16 When people around me started getting hurt, when
17 they said, "You either stay away from Mon Singh Sandhu, or you
18 find another place to live"-- This is after two or three years
19 people break their backs on moving and construction companies.

20 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Now, you are under oath, and
21 we can, perhaps, compensate for an oversight. You testified
22 as to a list of names which were submitted to you by the
23 Chairman of this Committee to the effect that these people were
24 residents of Sausalito while they were acting as registrars
25 in San Francisco and were registered to vote in San Francisco.

1 I will ask you now that you are under oath and
2 subject to all the penalties of perjury if that testimony is
3 true and correct?

4 MR. SANDHU: Yes, if they have 795 Eighth Avenue
5 as their address and they, to the best of my knowledge, lived
6 in Sausalito, yes, it was accurate.

7 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: You testified there was
8 political activity on the premises?

9 MR. SANDHU: All over the place.

10 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: There were meetings in which
11 the residents were called together and instructed to go out
12 and participate in political chores; is that true and correct?

13 MR. SANDHU: That's true.

14 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: You heard Mr. Maher testify
15 there were separate clubs that performed the activities and
16 that DelanceyStreet Foundation was not involved at all?

17 MR. SANDHU: Like most successful organizations they
18 have their own cover-ups. I don't care what they say. I was
19 in a therapist's position last December. There are so many
20 elections I can't keep thinking of them.

21 I was told that so many people were going out and
22 met every night in a little foyer, twenty, thirty people to
23 go out and register people.

24 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Where was it located, the
25 foyer?

1 MR. SANDHU: 795 Eighth Avenue.

2 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Were you a member of a political
3 club?

4 MR. SANDHU: I can't vote. I am not a citizen.

5 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: You heard testimony that they
6 did not meet on the premises.

7 MR. SANDHU: I don't know where they met, but I know
8 there was political activity there. I wouldn't mind it if it
9 would do something for the people. You can be with them five
10 years and be thrown out, and they say, "Here is four hundred
11 bucks," not considering you have obligations, even if you
12 didn't break the rules, shooting dope, fighting or messing
13 around with underage girls.

14 I did the same things that John Maher has right now
15 been doing.

16 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: You had in your statement --
17 This is your statement here. Can you read it?

18 MR. SANDHU: Yes, I read it. The things are quite
19 true, but I think they are kind of jumbled.

20 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Would you feel comfortable
21 with this being an official statements of yours?

22 MR. SANDHU: Pretty much.

23 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Or would you rather not?

24 MR. SANDHU: There are some names and positions
25 assigned to them that are not true, but basically it is a true

1 statement.

2 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: With respect to names of people
3 living in Sausalito, would you say that at least fifty percent
4 of those are accurate?

5 MR. SANDHU: I would say that ninety percent of them
6 were accurate.

7 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Can we submit the list of
8 names?

9 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Let's give him a copy and let
10 him make what corrections he wishes to make at this point.

11 MR. SANDHU: I am not 38 years old. I am 30 years
12 old.

13 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: May I suggest that the witness
14 take the statement and make changes in writing.

15 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Off the record.

16 (Discussion off the record.)

17 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Back on the record.

18 Did you want to say something?

19 CONSTANCE FERRONATO,

20 a witness first having been duly sworn on oath to
21 testify to the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
22 truth, testified as follows:

23 MS. FERRONATO: My name is Constance Ferronato.

24 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Pull the microphone down.
25 Don't be nervous. Would you kindly keep it on the issue, which

1 is voter fraud. We got away with some statements here, and
2 Mr. Maher spoke, and in fairness to Mr. Sandhu we gave him an
3 opportunity to respond.

4 MS. FERRONATO: Right. I understand. I want to say
5 first of all that I was a resident of the Foundation since 1972,
6 and I left in April of this year.

7 I was living in Sausalito from 1973 to when I
8 presently left, and all that time I was registered in San
9 Francisco as a voter. I voted in San Francisco while living
10 in Sausalito.

11 Now, Mr. Maher has made a statement regarding whether
12 or not we were residents of Marin County. Now, I have been
13 recently going through divorce proceedings, which was handled
14 in Marin County, because I was a resident of Marin County for
15 six months.

16 It is my understanding you have to be a resident of
17 a county for six months. If I wasn't a resident, how was the
18 divorce filed if I was a resident of San Francisco? I should
19 find out something, or my divorce isn't legal.

20 I was never -- At one time I was asked to join the
21 Democratic Club by Mr. Bill Maher, and I refused. I was made
22 to feel guilty that I wasn't helping things, and I refused,
23 and I never was a member of organizations, but I was always,
24 as often as everyone else in Delancey Street, did have to go
25 out and participate in political activities.

1 I had to do phone polling, knocking on doors, get out
2 the vote. We went out at 8:00 in the morning. We met at the
3 general facility of the Foundation and were told by them that
4 the first thing that needed to be done was get all our people
5 to vote. That was the first thing we did.

6 Whether or not the Foundation or the Democratic Club
7 made up the slate cards I am not sure. We were handed slate
8 cards and it was checked off what candidates we were supporting.
9 Of course, it is your choice when you get in the booth, and
10 they close the curtain, but it was very, very strongly suggested
11 the reason you came -- John used to make speeches in the
12 meetings that pertained to the voting, and he used to say
13 things to you: "You came to Delancey Street because you thought
14 too well in your life, and every time you thought, you got in
15 trouble, and let us do your thinking, and these are the
16 candidates that will help us and you."

17 You had to vote the way they wanted. I hated politics,
18 and I do to this day, and I used to cause a lot of trouble,
19 and I never would go. I had to spend a day washing dishes
20 because I refused to go out on a political activity.

21 Now, I can't remember exactly which barber, you know,
22 the therapist, because it happened a long time ago, but I was
23 put in the dish pan after dinner to wash dishes because I
24 refused to go on a political activity, and there were a number
25 of people I know who had to do things like that.

1 You are never told you have to vote this way, but,
2 believe me, there was a fear instilled in you that if you didn't
3 do it, you might not have a place to sleep that night, because
4 people had five to life hanging over their heads, or kids, and
5 they didn't have families they could run off to.

6 I don't know. I was never a member of those clubs,
7 but I was politically active, because I was told to by the
8 Foundation and not with any of the clubs.

9 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: You were forced to go out and
10 participate in registration drives?

11 MS. FERRONATO: Your name was put up, and you met at
12 a certain time and in a certain area, and if you were not there,
13 you were questioned, and there was discipline for people not
14 showing up for these political activities.

15 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Do you have any questions?

16 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Do you know of any other
17 meetings, places for these political activities other than the
18 Eighth Avenue facility? Had you ever heard of any place where
19 they met other than Eighth Avenue?

20 Let me withdraw the question.

21 You heard Mr. Maher testify that these clubs met in
22 other facilities?

23 MS. FERRONATO: Right.

24 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Because of the tax-exempt
25 status of Delancey Street.

1 Do you have any knowledge of any meeting place where
2 the clubs conducted their meetings?

3 MS. FERRONATO: Not to my knowledge, but you know,
4 I am not sure of that. I couldn't say for sure.

5 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Is it fair to say there was
6 substantial political activity conducted on the premises at
7 Eighth Avenue, there was always something going on?

8 MS. FERRONATO: The only thing that would bother me
9 was when they would have some political activity, or some
10 candidate, or some big shot already in office that was coming
11 to visit, and everybody used to be closed off, and we would
12 have to go out in a little area where you couldn't move around
13 because they were having a party, or there was a candidate
14 talking, or there was something going on. They used to have
15 them come down and make their speeches.

16 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: You mean the residents were not
17 permitted to hear the speeches?

18 MS. FERRONATO: A lot of times they were not. A lot
19 of times it was open for everybody, and a lot of times it was
20 a private thing.

21 The one thing I know from being a resident for four
22 years is you did not have a choice. You had it, but you didn't.
23 I can't explain it very well. The fear that you felt, we were
24 not going to refuse, you really weren't.

25 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Did you ever participate in

1 the selection of candidates or issues to be furnished?

2 MS. FERRONATO: I was never asked.

3 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Do you know of any of the other
4 residents who actually participated in the selection of who
5 would appear on the slate card?

6 MS. FERRONATO: Not to my knowledge. There was no
7 resident asked who they wanted or what they wanted.

8 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: You were given a slate card
9 and told that these are our guys and our issues?

10 MS. FERRONATO: Right. John was very careful in the
11 way he made the speeches. Very, very careful, but it would
12 always, like I said, you know you came here because you were
13 not well, and you don't think too well, so let us do your
14 thinking for you.

15 He was always very, very -- It was strongly suggested
16 to you that you go the way Delaney Street went, or that was
17 what John suggested.

18 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Just one more question: Do
19 you know where Mr. Sylvester Herring was residing last fall?

20 MS. FERRONATO: Well, as long as I have lived in
21 Sausalito, Sylvester and his girl friend have lived in
22 Sausalito, because my husband and I were one of the first
23 people who moved out there as a couple, and there was Sylvester
24 and Lavetta and a few others that moved right about the same
25 time.

1 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: When was that?

2 MS. FERRONATO: Late 1973 or early 1974.

3 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Until the time you left was
4 Sylvester Herring living in Sausalito?

5 MS. FERRONATO: Yes.

6 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: This year, you mean?

7 MS. FERRONATO: Yes, as far as I know, Sylvester
8 Herring lives there, but I haven't been with the Foundation
9 since April, but in April he was.

10 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: How did all the people from
11 Sausalito become deputy registrars?

12 MS. FERRONATO: Well, there used to be names put
13 on the board where people were going to meet, and I guess they
14 have certain classes that these people have to attend before
15 they could register voters.

16 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: How did this all start if you
17 were living in Sausalito? Were you given a notice?

18 MS. FERRONATO: No, everybody all came to one facility.
19 That is where they started and where the breakfast was held,
20 and from there you went to your job or school, or wherever you
21 went. So everybody was in San Francisco.

22 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: They never had the meetings
23 at Sausalito? They were always in the City?

24 When you came to San Francisco, how did they get the
25 104 or 105 people who were identified as registrars to become

1 deputy registrars? Do you have any idea?

2 MS. FERRONATO: All I know was there used to be names
3 posted on the bulletin boards for these people who met at a
4 time and place, and it all seemed around being registrars for
5 the voting.

6 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Okay. Do you have any
7 questions?

8 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Let me see if I understand fully,
9 you actually lived in Sausalito?

10 MS. FERRONATO: Yes.

11 SUPERVISOR NELDER: You, yourself?

12 MS. FERRONATO: Yes.

13 SUPERVISOR NELDER: What is the time frame? What
14 period of time?

15 MS. FERRONATO: 1974, 1975 and up until April, when
16 I left, of this year.

17 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Of this year?

18 MS. FERRONATO: Yes, and I voted in every election
19 in San Francisco except for the last election, and at that
20 time they told us that we were -- "Do not vote if you are
21 residing in Sausalito, do not vote."

22 SUPERVISOR NELDER: This name on the bulletin board,
23 where would that be?

24 MS. FERRONATO: At the club. We called it the club
25 at 795 Eighth Avenue. That was the general meeting place

1 where everybody came.

2 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Did I understand you to say that
3 you refused to go out, and you were assigned some kind of chore,
4 washing dishes?

5 MS. FERRONATO: Yes, it was a long time ago, but I
6 refused to go out on phone polling, and I had to spend some
7 time in the dish pan doing dishes.

8 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Was your name on the board?

9 MS. FERRONATO: Yes, and I just didn't show up.

10 SUPERVISOR NELDER: I asked Mr. Sandhu this question
11 too, and let me ask you: Did you ever see people from Delancey
12 Street at fixed locations registering people?

13 MS. FERRONATO: They used to do it at the Safeway store
14 at Market. In fact, I drove one of the jitneys to pick up
15 people, and the table at the Safeway on Market and whatever
16 that street is.

17 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Market and Duboce, that Safeway?

18 MS. FERRONATO: Yes, where the cable car turns
19 around.

20 SUPERVISOR NELDER: What do you mean by "jitney"?
21 What is it?

22 MS. FERRONATO: One of our vehicles. It is a twelve-
23 passenger.

24 SUPERVISOR NELDER: You drove that to this location?

25 MS. FERRONATO: Right, to pick up the tables and

1 people.

2 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Do you remember who the people
3 were?

4 MS. FERRONATO: I remember Billy Hahau (phonetic)
5 was out there. He usually organized these kinds of things
6 but I can't offhand remember names. I guess if I thought about
7 it hard enough, I probably could.

8 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Is there any other activity like
9 that that you can remember that you participated in, driving
10 the jitney or seeing anyone else register?

11 MS. FERRONATO: Right outside the 795 Eighth Avenue
12 facility a table is set up and they register people.

13 SUPERVISOR NELDER: People you knew from Delancey
14 Street?

15 MS. FERRONATO: Yes, and outside of that the only
16 real activity that went on was the event when we went out to
17 vote.

18 We went out at 8:00 o'clock, and we didn't come
19 home until 7:00 o'clock.

20 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Did you go out personally?

21 MS. FERRONATO: Yes, I went out.

22 SUPERVISOR NELDER: What did you do?

23 MS. FERRONATO: We walked the precinct. All of us
24 teamed up with another person, and we had a certain amount of
25 area we had to walk and knock on every door and present our

1 slate card and say, "Come on, you have got to get out and make
2 it a good election," and run a little spiel.

3 We must have got out there at 9:00 o'clock in the
4 morning and came home at 7:00 o'clock at night, and as far
5 as food went, we got a little old sack lunch they brought
6 around to us.

7 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Who would give you the sack
8 lunch?

9 MS. FERRONATO: The Foundation's kitchen would
10 prepare them and the jitney drivers would go around to the
11 different areas and find the people and hand them the lunch.

12 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Did you have a title in the
13 organization?

14 MS. FERRONATO: I had no title. I handled all the
15 insurance for the Foundation and the Department of Motor
16 Vehicles, and that kind of thing.

17 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Can you explain that a little
18 bit? What does that mean, you "handled"?

19 MS. FERRONATO: I did all the registration for the
20 vehicles. I set up a fleet maintenance program. I was setting
21 up a driver's education program for the Foundation, and I
22 handled all the insurance on the property and the vehicles.

23 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Thank you very much.

24 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: You mentioned food. Did that
25 involve the collection of the food stamps?

1 MS. FERRONATO: Well, all I know is we recently,
2 you know, we had been battling for the food stamps for a long
3 time, and everybody signed. It comes through -- There is a
4 special account that has been set up within the Foundation for
5 the food stamps, and it all goes into a special account, and
6 that money is disbursed to the purchasing account for the
7 head of the kitchen, and as he plans the menus, he gets the
8 money to buy the food.

9 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: You mean the stamps to buy
10 the food?

11 MS. FERRONATO: Right. No, I don't think we
12 actually -- I am not positive, but my understanding of the
13 way it worked was the stamps don't come. It is transferred
14 into money and a special account when it gets to the Foundation,
15 because there would be too many stamps.

16 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: But individuals don't handle
17 their stamps?

18 MS. FERRONATO: No, all I know is once a month we
19 had to sign a slip like we did for the medical to renew it.

20 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Approximately how much was
21 involved in food?

22 MS. FERRONATO: The last time I knew, it was \$17,000
23 in food stamps per month, and I know it has probably gone up.

24 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Thank you.

25 MS. FERRONATO: Okay.

1 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Is there anything else you
2 want to say with respect to the registration process about that
3 that you can think of?

4 For instance, on Election Day were people more or
5 less ordered to go out or forced to go out and work for a
6 candidate?

7 MS. FERRONATO: It was just an understanding that
8 everyone had to, and that everyone knew that the day of the
9 election there was nothing else going on. You had to get the
10 vote out whether you wanted to or not. That was your eight
11 hours of work that day. That was the way it was since I have
12 been there.

13 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Thank you.

14 Anybody else?

15 ---oOo---

16 DOUGLAS ENGMANN,

17 a witness, first having been duly sworn on oath to
18 testify to the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
19 truth, testified as follows:

20 MR. ENGMANN: I am with Stanyan-Fulton Street.

21 I was the chairperson of the finance committee of
22 the Coalition to Register 100,000 Voters in 1975.

23 I would first like to request, on behalf of myself
24 and other members of the Coalition that this Committee continue
25 its hearing until we have an opportunity to review the report

1 and summary that was presented here. We have not seen it and
2 it was not made available to anyone before.

3 We feel we should have an opportunity to make a
4 statement before the Committee after we have had a chance to
5 review the report. I would like to make that formal request,
6 whether you want to deal with it now or wait.

7 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Of course, you realize that
8 I have no objection, but we requested that some of your members,
9 particularly Ms. Berman, appear, and she did -- She was
10 outraged that we made the request.

11 We had Mr. Mason here and a number of people active.
12 So there has been some input.

13 MR. ENGMANN: I understand that there has been
14 testimony, and I have testified before this Committee before
15 myself, but I think it is only right that we have an opportunity
16 to review the summary and conclusions that were made, review
17 the factual data in the report and have an opportunity to
18 correct that.

19 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: It would be my wish that this
20 Committee would recess until some future date. I don't know
21 for what reason. The Committee didn't get the report either
22 until this morning. There are reasons for that. We want to
23 today let the Pacific Legal Foundation file the report. This
24 is their report as they see it, and I think the Committee is
25 going to have to review it to see what recommendations we may have

1 for legislation.

2 So we will probably have another meeting.

3 SUPERVISOR NELDER: I don't think there is any
4 question here that if I were sitting where these people were
5 sitting from the District Attorney's Office, nobody would get
6 out of here before I talked to them. You heard the testimony,
7 and there certainly must be some things said this morning
8 that raised some hackles on you, and I would not let anyone
9 walk out of this room until I had the full story.

10 If ever you find yourselves in the same position,
11 I would support you.

12 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: There will be a copy available
13 as of today in the file to read. We don't have that many copies
14 because they are \$10 a copy. They are \$10 a copy if we buy
15 fifty copies. We have some Xeroxed copies. You can probably
16 buy one of those.

17 MR. ENGMANN: I do want to follow up on your point,
18 and I was sorry to interrupt the meeting earlier by getting
19 angry with certain statements relating to the ballot argument.

20 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: And Willie Brown.

21 MR. ENGMANN: And Willie Brown's comments regarding
22 Supervisor Barbagelata.

23 It is written that:

24 "The real leaders behind this
25 devious proposal are basically

1 the same few people who last year
2 took control of voter registration
3 in our City and conducted a partisan
4 and illegal registration drive. The
5 City is still painstakingly trying
6 to purge illegal voters from the
7 rolls. How much fraud? To give
8 you some idea, 50,000 Voters
9 Handbooks for the June election
10 were returned because the Post
11 Office couldn't locate the so-
12 called voters."

13 I was the District Two Coordinator for Proposition T.
14 I have contributed money to Proposition T. I have not been
15 contacted by the District Attorney. This is implying that
16 I, having backed Proposition T, and being in the Coalition,
17 have conducted an illegal and fraudulent voter registration.

18 SUPERVISOR BARBAGELATA: Let me tell you, you are
19 not going to use this platform for Proposition T.

20 If you want to discuss this with me afterwards, you
21 can. What is in the ballot books has nothing to do with any
22 argument there or anyone else's argument.

23 When you review this, it will say that it is an
24 illegal partisan voter registration drive, and it is
25 primarily because there was no ordinance to pay people for

1 votes.

2 MR. ENGMANN: Who of the people who are on Proposition
3 T paid money to registrars?

4 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: You have Willie Brown
5 threatening to sue, and we can iron this out in the morning.
6 Off the record.

7 (Discussion off the record.)

8 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Back on the record.

9 May I suggest that we allow Mr. Engmann to make a
10 brief statement with respect to the matter that we are on and
11 keep on the issue.

12 I raise the question about the identity of persons
13 involved in the voter registration, and I don't think that
14 there is any question that there was fraud. A lot of people
15 pleaded guilty. A lot of people were indicted.

16 MR. ENGMANN: You name me one member of the Coalition
17 to Register 100,000 Voters.

18 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Let me make the suggestion that
19 we have another witness scheduled. Why don't you listen to
20 him and make your statement.

21 MR. ENGMANN: I will make my statement on the record
22 after I have had a chance to review it.

23 SUPERVISOR BARBAGELATA: Why don't we get on with the
24 next witness?

25 --oOo--

ROBERT JOHNSON,

a witness, first having been duly sworn on oath to testify to the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Supervisor, I think most of the issues have been covered in this thing.

I was at Delancey Street just briefly, a period of eight months.

CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Are we going to stay on the issue?

MR. JOHNSON: There is a lot of animosity in the issue.

CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: We are talking about voter fraud in the registration drive. We are not talking about Delancey Street necessarily. We are talking about what happened. You can tell us with respect to anything you might think was wrong pertaining to political activity that you were forced to enter into or like that.

MR. JOHNSON: I have only participated in one election while I was there. Prior to going to the election I was given a little slip of paper with a number of them, Joe Hallinan and a number of other names on it. I was taken to the polls, and that was the primary then, this election that just took place. I have voted in that, and again, I voted for the people who were given to me on the piece of paper.

1 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: But that is not so unusual.
2 Is there anything unusual that you were forced to do that you
3 didn't want to do against your will or choice?

4 MR. JOHNSON: I can't say I did anything against my
5 will. I was asked to do a number of things, and I did them,
6 and probably the reason I did them was because I did them
7 and I do now.

8 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Was there any threat that you
9 had to do them?

10 MR. JOHNSON: I was never threatened. I did then,
11 and I do now. I have a lot of feeling for the Delancey Street
12 program and what they are doing for people and what they could
13 do.

14 I think there is a lot of integrity there. Maybe
15 it has been misplaced in some respects, but I still have a
16 lot of feeling for Delancey Street.

17 I am no longer associated with the organization. I
18 worked for the political arm for Bill Maher for school board.
19 I put up signs and went door to door and asked people to vote.
20 I made the posters, silk screened the posters for hanging up.

21 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Where did you do that?

22 MR. JOHNSON: On Market Street at the Democratic
23 headquarters. I have been sent to the National headquarters
24 to do things, stuff envelopes, and such things as that.

25 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: You say you were sent there?

1 MR. JOHNSON: Yes.

2 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: On a voluntary basis?

3 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, it is a voluntary basis. It was
4 a voluntary basis at that time. They said they needed some
5 people down there, so we went.

6 You know, if I may just stray for a second --

7 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: I wish you wouldn't, sir,
8 because we have to terminate this. This is not a hearing on
9 DelanceyStreet.

10 MR. JOHNSON: I understand that.

11 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: May I ask that we allow a lot
12 of latitude because of a lot of things that have been said
13 that were not germane.

14 MR. JOHNSON: We are not talking about DelanceyStreet.
15 We are talking about people and the lives of people and we have
16 got, like they said, we have 340 to 360 people in Delancey
17 Street.

18 Our purpose has not been to hurt DelanceyStreet in
19 any way. What we want to do is make sure that the people in
20 DelanceyStreet have the opportunity to do what DelanceyStreet
21 was intended for. It is to straighten out a lot of lives, to
22 change things for a lot of people and afford them an
23 opportunity to do something with their lives they would never
24 get.

25 There is no rehabilitation program in the

1 penitentiaries. It is an alternative to the penitentiaries.
2 Delancey Street, I think, is absolutely vital. I think it
3 serves a fantastic function when it is serving that function.

4 I am not here to detract from what John Maher has
5 done. He has done a lot in keeping people out of the
6 penitentiary, and that is a lot in itself. But sitting back
7 there it seems like we are approaching everything in a kind
8 of an angry type of thing, everybody is angry, and I don't feel
9 we can reach any of the issues or any of the points or results
10 if everybody is angry.

11 Mon Singh Sandhu doesn't want to tear Delancey Street
12 down. I certainly don't want to tear Delancey Street down.

13 Like I said, I think it is a vital organization. All
14 we want is we think that you know we don't feel that there
15 should be a political machine running that. We don't feel that.

16 We are speaking about programs, and there is no
17 program in Delancey Street. There was football and baseball,
18 and they have taken it out and built a structure around making
19 money and politics.

20 There has to be a little more to it than that to make
21 a viable organization. This is what we would like to see.
22 This is the purpose of, really, of this meeting taking place.

23 SUPERVISOR NELDER: I think he is testifying on the
24 subject matter. Explain what is political. What is happening
25 that we are here for?



1 MR. JOHNSON: In an eight-month period, as opposed
2 to Mon's five years, there is very little that I would know
3 about the intricate workings of Delancey Street.

4 I was always on the periphery. My only involvement
5 in the political process was a brief two-week period of work
6 on politics.

7 I never voted before in my life, and this was the
8 first time I voted, and I feel that when it comes to voting
9 that I should be able to go in a voting booth and choose
10 whichever candidate that I would like to choose without being
11 dictated to or have it strongly suggested that I vote for
12 these people. I don't feel that I should be put in that
13 position.

14 I think we have a big job to do there on a lot of
15 people's lives. I don't feel they will be doing it on politics.
16 I think the proper thing to do is work on human attitudes, but
17 that is not to say they are going to do good things in politics.

18 It is my feeling that we should stay away from
19 politics.

20 SUPERVISOR NELDER: You indicated you should have
21 freedom of choice as far as candidates are concerned, and you
22 said you voted the last time. How did you happen to vote,
23 and what happened?

24 MR. JOHNSON: The day prior to our voting, Mr. John
25 Maher came, and he made a speech, and he indicated that the



1 people on the slip of paper that he was going to pass around
2 were people that he had studied, and he felt that they would
3 be the best candidates, and that they were asking us to vote
4 in that direction, because, number one, we were just in the
5 door, and we were not that familiar with the political scene.
6 What would we have to do with voting out there; we didn't have
7 anything to do with voting on the street, and he passed
8 around a paper and asked us to vote for the people that were
9 felt by him and other people involved to be good. The names
10 I don't know.

11 He said that we should vote for them, because they
12 could do the most for us, and they would be the proper
13 candidates, and blah, blah, blah.

14 The question never arose what if we wanted to vote
15 for somebody else and what if we wanted to choose another
16 candidate. That never came up because of the manner in which
17 the rhetoric came down from John. He kind of chuckled and
18 said that right now we were still sick, and that is not to be
19 taken literally. It is a joke of his that he says that we are
20 still sick and in two or three years from now when we had
21 our stuff together, we could vote any way we chose, but right
22 now, he is asking that we vote for these candidates here.

23 Little things do happen. It is quite true that Bill
24 Maher says nobody is forced to vote. That is true, but you
25 see, if you are on probation to Delaney Street, and you have

1 a five or ten, or fifteen-year sentence to life hanging on your
2 head, and Delancey Street gives you to feel that if you don't.
3 do this, we don't need you, that means that you are returned
4 to court and eventually imprisonment.

5 The hammer is there. Maybe it is unconsciously used.
6 Maybe it is not trying to be used at all, but the feeling that
7 it is being used against you is there, but I really can't offer
8 too much against -- nothing against Delancey Street.

9 SUPERVISOR NELDER: You indicated that you worked
10 there.

11 MR. JOHNSON: Bill Maher was running for school board
12 and I was working at his office on Market Street printing up
13 the signs by hand on silk screen and out in the districts
14 with two or three people to each district hanging up signs
15 wherever we could hang the sign.

16 SUPERVISOR NELDER: Did you do this voluntarily?
17 Who had you take the assignment?

18 MR. JOHNSON: That is very difficult to say. I can't
19 say I was forced, and I can't say I volunteered. We would be
20 at work, and someone would say that we have to get out fifty
21 signs right now. So we would go.

22 An awful lot of people there -- There isn't bad
23 feelings about it because they feel that they want us to do
24 that, so this is what we are going to do, you know. It is
25 just, you know, it seems that we should have a choice.



1 I don't feel that there was any choice.

2 SUPERVISOR NELDER: I have no further questions,
3 Mr. Chairman.

4 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Thank you.

5 --oO--

6 TOM GRAPSHI,

7 a witness, first having been duly sworn on oath
8 to testify to the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
9 truth, testified as follows:

10 MR. GRAPSHI: I am not here to respond to any of the
11 charges. I am here to make a brief statement.

12 I find it odd that this Committee, whose alleged
13 purpose is to look into voter fraud, and who are taking
14 allegations from disgruntled former patients with past
15 histories of narcotics addiction would not notify the
16 Foundation and other groups that allegations were made against
17 them. I find that very odd. I question the motives.

18 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: You are here now; you can
19 respond.

20 MR. GRAPSHI: I am not here to respond. I will tell
21 you why I am not going to respond.

22 We were not formally notified; so we can't respond
23 to the charges. If it weren't for people, friends of the
24 Foundation who know of the Foundation's workings, who informed
25 us of these hearings, that appear for all practical purposes --



1 SUPERVISOR NELDER: What interest would I have other
2 than getting to the bottom of the truth?

3 MR. GRAPSHI: That is not the question. Why weren't
4 we formally notified? It smacks of conspiracy, and I am outraged
5 at it.

6 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: You are here under oath.

7 MR. GRAPSHI: We will comment when we are notified
8 of the proceedings and they are bipartisan.

9 I stated that I was going to make a brief statement
10 and not respond to allegations.

11 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: You are part of Mr. Maher's
12 campaign?

13 MR. GRAPSHI: As a private citizen, I am exercising
14 my political prerogative.

15 SUPERVISOR NELDER: This Supervisor has no other
16 ulterior motive.

17 MR. GRAPSHI: I don't doubt that.

18 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: If somebody wants to come here
19 and testify, we are not going to go out and notify the
20 opposition that somebody is going to say something.

21 MR. GRAPSHI: Opposition, I don't understand, sir.

22 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: You are saying that we should
23 have told DelanceyStreet to come in here.

24 In the first place, they can come in and respond
25 the next time we have a meeting if they choose to do so at



1 that time. The charges were made today by three different
2 people from DelanceyStreet, not yesterday.

3 MR. GRAPSHI: Former drug addicts with case histories
4 of extended narcotics abuse.

5 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Let's not keep it personal.
6 Everybody has problems.

7 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Is that typical of the attitude
8 of DelanceyStreet towards the people you serve?

9 MR. GRAPSHI: No, sir. We serve the people who come
10 to us.

11 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: I thought you would be more
12 charitable and humane.

13 MR. GRAPSHI: I am charitable.

14 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: First, DelanceyStreet was
15 notified, and they are on the list for these hearings, and
16 if they choose to be here, they could be here.

17 MR. GRAPSHI: They were not notified. If you could
18 show me documentation, I would be happy to refute that.

19 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Ms. Clerk.

20 THE CLERK: I will show you the mailing list that
21 was sent out. This was sent out last Friday.

22 MR. GRAPSHI: Could I have a copy of the letter that
23 was sent out?

24 THE CLERK: Right here.

25 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: That is a copy of the notice



1 sent to anyone we think would be interested.

2 MR. GRAPSHI: Anyone?

3 THE CLERK: 250 people.

4 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: That is a formal notice of
5 hearing.

6 THE CLERK: That is the notice that everyone gets,
7 sir.

8 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Thank you, sir.

9 Mr. Sandhu, do you want to come up here?

10 MR. GRAPSHI: It does not state here that Delancey
11 Street, for the record --

12 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Sir, you have had your
13 opportunity. That is a copy of what is sent out to everybody.

14 MS. HESTER: Did you find their name on the list?

15 THE CLERK: Yes.

16 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: Could we continue the hearing?

17 SUPERVISOR FRANCOIS: Mr. Chairman, I think the
18 question was to what address was the Delancey Street notice
19 sent?

20 THE CLERK: The Divisadero Street address.

21 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: You concurred that is
22 reasonably accurate?

23 THE CLERK: Reasonably.

24 CHAIRMAN BARBAGELATA: May we make that part of the
25 file?



1 No further testimony, the meeting is over.

2 (Whereupon, the meeting of the Select Committee
3 on Voter Fraud was adjourned at 11:25 o'clock.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, JANIS ROLLER, duly authorized shorthand reporter,
United States District Court for the Northern District of
California, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing transcript, pages 1 through 100,
inclusive, constitutes a true, full and correct transcript of
my shorthand notes taken as such reporter of the proceedings
herein and reduced to typewriting under my supervision and
control to the best of my ability.

Janis F. Roller
Nov. 1, 1976





